



THE E-COUPLER
MARCH 2011 Edition
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FROM THE DEAN

There are many reasons for joining the American Guild of Organists: love of the organ and its fantastic body of literature, profound appreciation for the organ's ability to inspire us to contemplate spiritual mysteries in worship, enjoyment of outstanding choral music. Our magazine, *The American Organist*, brings news, reviews and articles both practical and scholarly into our homes each month.

The mutual support of our colleagues in the field is another really important aspect of AGO membership. Many of us have studied music in an academic setting; others have experience belonging to a private teacher's studio. In either case, this period of intensive study created a musical world: an environment where music and interaction with other musicians was a major part of daily life. As we move out into the working world, it is easy to become cut off from that vibrant flow of ideas and exchange of musical opinions and experiences. It is important to remember that you are not alone!

The American Organist brings the organ world to you to 12 times a year; what do *you* do to stay connected on a local level? Each year, a variety of programs are presented by the Albuquerque Chapter, which includes our neighbors in northern New Mexico. While every program may not interest you, there should be several that offer attractive opportunities to improve your organ-playing skills or enjoy a recital on the King of Instruments.

The three remaining programs of the 2010-2011 season offer education, enjoyment, and socialization. The **March 19** program discusses French Classic literature, a genre that at times seems bound by strict stylistic conventions, but which is really very accessible to organists of all skill levels. In **May**, there is a real treat: Daniel O'Connor, the Region VII Competition Winner in 2009, will present a recital at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. Our **June** Year-End Party in Santa Fe is simply a time to enjoy each others' company and get to know each other better. Please invite another organist to join you for one or all of these events. **You** are the AGO; make yourself seen and heard in the larger musical community! See details elsewhere in this issue of the *Coupler*.

Regional Conventions are another opportunity for inspiration and mutual support. Do you think your problems are unique? You may meet someone from Tulsa or Amarillo

Continued on page 2

ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER AGO

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DEAN'S LETTER ...

or Pittsburgh, PA, with similar challenges and feelings about their work situation. Do you want to hear some great organists performing old and new repertoire on wonderful instruments? Check out the Regional Convention pages in the middle of *The American Organist*. Our own Region VII Convention promises to be a fantastic few days, but every convention offers up a satisfying mix of performances and workshops. Choose one that piques your interest.

Don't wait until next year to take full advantage of your AGO membership; come to one of our three Spring events and make that connection with your fellow New Mexico organists.

All best,

JANE

Jane Smith, Dean

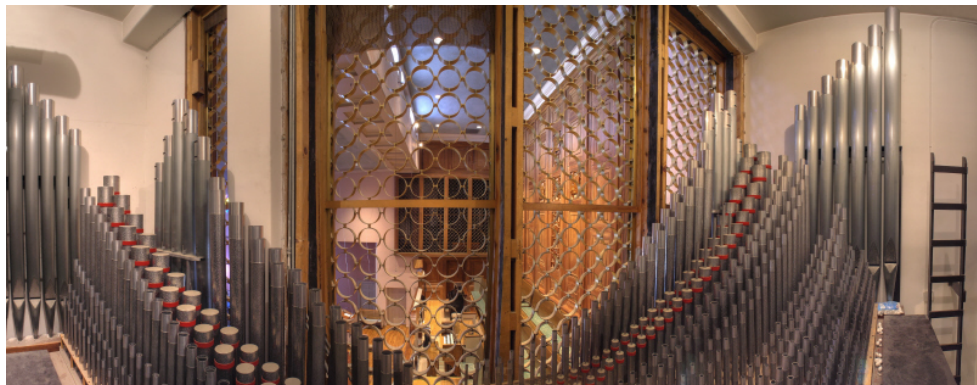
CHAPTER MEMBER CONCERTS

Maribeth Gunning and the St. John's United Methodist Church Chancel Choir will perform Duruflé's *Requiem* at 2 pm Sunday, March 27 at the church, 2626 Arizona NE, Albuquerque. Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated.

A reception to honor the artists will be held immediately following the concert. Website: connectatstjohns.org.



Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)



CONCERTS ...



First Presbyterian Church Santa Fe continues its 5:30 pm Friday concerts under the direction of **Linda Raney**; admission is by free-will donation. March 11: Edwin Light and Madeline Williamson, piano 4-hands music of Mozart, Schubert, and Persichetti. March 18: Chancel Choir, Bach Cantata *Ein feste Burg*. March 25: EPIK Young Artists of The Santa Fe Concert Association. April 1: pianist Linda King and a string trio will perform Brahms' Piano Quartet op. 25 in G Minor. April 8: pianist Keith Snell. April 15: former Chapter member and now UK resident Iain Quinn. April 22: Santa Fe Women's Ensemble, Dean Roush's *Stabat Mater*. April 29: Raney plays works by Bach, Sweelinck, and Albert Renaud. Website: fpcsantafe.org.

Friends of Cathedral Music present the 2011 Bishop Trelease Memorial Concert at 7 pm Friday, April 1, at the Cathedral Church of St. John, 318 Silver SE in Albuquerque. **Maxine Thévenot** conducts the Cathedral choirs and a chamber orchestra in Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* with soloists Lindsay Kesselman and Sarah Ihlefeld. The concert also includes the New Mexico premiere of Scottish composer James MacMillan's *Cantos Sagrados*, accompanied by acclaimed American organist **Stephen Tharp** in his third visit to the Cathedral. General admission is \$10 adult, \$5 students with ID; children under 12 are admitted free. Website: stjohnsabq.org.



CHAPTER NEWS AND REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

As of March 5, our Bank of America accounts stood at \$14,494.12 (checking) and \$100.10 (savings). Our investment accounts at Charles Schwab were \$22,339.96 (Nelson Recital Fund) and \$16,636.65 (Savings, including the Hageman Recital Fund). Jane Smith and I will meet soon with an investment advisor who is graciously donating his time and advice, on how best to reinvest our Schwab funds to yield more income with due prudence in these difficult times. We will report back to the Executive Committee with recommendations for action. *Craig Smith, Treasurer*

REMAINING CHAPTER EVENTS

2 pm Saturday, March 19: *Master Class on French Classical Repertoire.*

Jane Smith and Marla Riggins Clark, presenters. First Presbyterian Church, 215 Locust Street NE, Albuquerque; James Yeager, host organist.

April: No scheduled activities Happy Easter!

4 pm Sunday, May 15: *Young Artist Organ Recital: Daniel O'Connor.*

St. Luke Lutheran Church, 9100 Menaul Blvd NE, Albuquerque. Repertoire TBA.

12:30 to 5:30 pm Saturday, June 11: *Catered Chapter Year-End Social and Installation of New Officers.* The House of the Dancing Turtle, 550 E. Alameda, Santa Fe.

Details to follow.

NEWS FROM THE REGION AND NATIONAL

WIND & FIRE: As Jane noted in her Dean's letter, there are many regional conventions to choose from this year. The Region VII Convention, "Wind and Fire," takes place June 12-15 in Oklahoma City—just a few hours' drive east on I-40. You have probably already received your convention brochure with details about this exciting convention. Take some time to peruse it carefully and make your plans now to attend what promises to be an outstanding event! Early Registration ends on March 31, so don't wait. **Highlights:** organists Mary Preston, Christopher Houlihan, Susan Ferre; Canterbury Choral Society, Richard Zielinski Singers; Fisk, Aeolian-Skinner, Zimmer, Schantz, Buzard, Reuter, Moller organs. Website: www.windandfireokc.com.

DUES NEWS: National's new online dues collection system will be activated on or about May 15, 2011. According to National, "New and renewing members will be able to log in to their own personalized user account, confirm or update their contact information, and renew online using a major credit card or pay later by sending a check. For those without Internet access, local chapters will provide a printed dues renewal form.

Because the local portion of AGO membership dues and contributions will be remitted back to local chapters via electronic funds transfers weekly, the new online dues collection system will help the AGO support a 'greener' environment."

Registrar Frederick Frahm will be the Chapter point person for this exciting new venture. New, that is, for the AGO, but something familiar to most every one of us. Very few won't have shopped, paid bills, or renewed a membership of some sort online! Stay tuned for more details, coming soon.

KEEP US POSTED: Don't forget to let us know of upcoming concerts and events in your church, synagogue, or with any music group you're associated with. We not only can list them in The Coupler, but send email blasts out to our membership. Call Craig at 505-603-1750, or email him at critic53@cybermesa.com.