



ORGEL ZEIT

The York Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
Serving our community since 1935

www.yorkago.org

Volume 7, Issue 10

September 2010

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- Much, much more!

75th Anniversary Year!

Sunday, September 19, 2010

4:00pm



**Lutheran Vespers
Installation of Officers
and naming of the
Theodore Herzel organ scholarship.**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
25 West Springettsbury Ave, York**

Mission Statement

- To promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles
- To encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music
- To provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of members



Join us at 4:00PM Sunday September 19 as we "kick-off" our 75th year. We will start with the AGO tradition of a Vespers service, followed by installation of the chapter officers.

Our Region III Councillor, Jane Errera, CHM, MA will be with us to install the officers.

Our "Keys for Kids" scholarship program will be named in memory of Ted Herzel, who devoted many years to the Guild and its activities.

Of course, refreshments will follow.



Directions: St. Paul's Lutheran Church is on the Northwest corner of the intersection of S. George St. and Springettsbury Avenue.

DEAN'S LETTER

The York Chapter, American Guild of Organists was incorporated in 1935. That makes the chapter 75 years old! To celebrate our 75th anniversary, the Executive Board has scheduled some very fine workshops, concerts, services and meetings. I think they have done a very fine job in planning a variety of interesting programs. We always want to remind you to let us know of any ideas for future programs. It is important that we hear what types of events members might be interested in attending.

Two important events that you will definitely want to add to your calendar for the FALL include.

Lutheran Vespers, Installation of Officers, and naming of the Theodore Herzel organ scholarship.

Sunday, September 19, 2010 4:00pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 West Springettsbury Ave, York

Victor Fields, Jonathan Noel, Rev. Stanley Reep



Paul Jacobs, concert organist

Sunday, November 14, 2010 3:00pm

Union Lutheran Church

408 W. Market St.

Tickets: \$15.00 adults, \$10.00 students.

I encourage you to support the York Chapter with your attendance at these events and programs. Virtuoso concert organist Paul Jacobs is pure delight to hear and watch him perform.

In addition, the Board has planned several additional programs and social events to fill out our 75th year. Also, you will want to plan to attend Region III Convention next June which will be hosted by our friends in the Capital, the Harrisburg Chapter. The convention will be held June 27-30, 2011.

We look forward to seeing you to help celebrate 75 years of great organ music from the York Chapter, AGO.

Victor Fields

York AGO,

Thank you for your assistance in funding for me to attend this year's Pipe Organ Encounter in Bridgeport, Connecticut! I had a great time! Throughout the week I had the chance to hear many great organists perform, and then meet them afterwards. Most of the performers would then teach a workshop later on in the week. Some of the workshops included organ etiquette, choral conducting from the organ, hymn playing, accompanying, improvisation, and more! Cheryl Duerr was my private organ teacher for the week. For four hours a day I would work on my sight-reading, learn new pieces, and work on my pedal technique. There were also many great places I got to visit during my week at POE, such as the Thomaston Opera House. Being in that opera house and hearing the theater organ was one of my favorite parts of the week! It was fantastic! One of the theater organists there took me up to see the pipe room! Seeing all of the pipes, cymbals, xylophones, and other instruments hooked up to the organ was breathtaking! We also spent a whole day walking around Yale University! Not only did we walk around the old campus and play on three historic organs, but we also got to go into Yale's Sacred Music building! There were so many different organs there! My favorite organ I saw at Yale was the Newberry Organ at Woolsey Hall! It is the biggest organ I have even seen! It has 12,617 pipes, 197 ranks, and 167 speaking stops! It was under repair, so we didn't get to play on it, but we were allowed to go below it and see all of the air pumps and pipes that went with it! I hope that one day I can return and have the opportunity to play on it! POE was great this year! I had a lot of fun, and I hope I can attend another POE next year! Thank you again for all of your help and support!

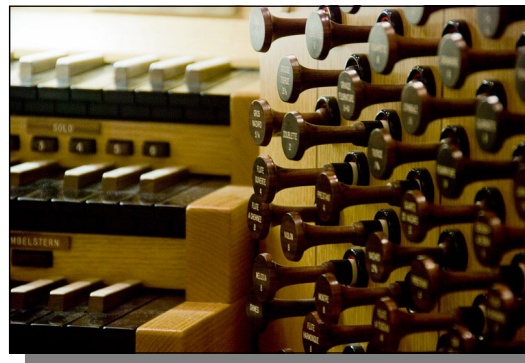
- Layton Graves

2010-2011 Programs

When	Time	Program	Location
Sunday, Sept.. 19	4:00PM	Lutheran Vespers, Installation of Officers, and naming of the Theodore Herzel organ scholarship.	St. Paul's Lutheran Church 25 West Springettsbury Ave, York
Tuesday October 19	7:00PM	Organ Trivia & Pot Luck Desert Social	Cheryl Huber Residence 2990 Lehigh Road York, PA 17402
Sunday, November 14, 2010	3:00PM	Paul Jacobs In concert	Union Lutheran Church 408 W. Market St., York
December		No meeting	
Saturday, January 15	All day	January Jump Start	Brwn Mawr Presbyterian church, Bryn Mawr, PA
Saturday, February 12	10:00AM	Dr. Robert Lau Improvisation Workshop	Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Canal Road, Abbottstown, PA
Sunday, March 20	3:00PM	Hook & Hastings Organ Richard Frey	Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Hanover, PA
April		No meeting	
Tuesday May 17,	7:00PM	Annual Recital and Hunt Scholarship	St. John's Lutheran York, PA
June 27-30 2011		AGO Regional Convention	Harrisburg, PA

SUBSTITUTE LIST

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Byron Daudelin | 410-730-1336 | byron7194@comcast.net
Pipe organs only |
| Elise Fasnacht | 717-252-4820 | synch182gmail.com |
| Jan Frey | 717-846-6485 | jrfrey@earthlink.net |
| Layton Graves | 717-630-8680 | lsgpianoplayer@gmail.com |
| Beth Gross | 717-767-4518
Cell: | bgross2925@comcast.net |
| Cheryl Huber | 717-840-9707 | keyboard7788@comcast.net |
| Christine Kates | 717-741-9534 | ckates@comcast.net |
| Mary Loyer | 717-244-0819 | loyer@compuserve.com |
| Marie Melusky | 717-292-5758 | mmelusky@aol.com |
| Suzy Reimold | 717-846-4408 | fionasdragon@comcast.net |
| R. Wayne Grauel | 800.357.4545
Cell:
410-804-8407 | wayne@churchorgansales.com
(only Gettysburg, Chambers-
burg, and Hanover areas) |



This list is published as a courtesy to chapter membership. Substitutes should be compensated according to the current rate available on the AGO national website.
www.agohq.org/profession/indexsalary

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Organist/choir director wanted for liturgical Lutheran Church in Annville, PA. One Sunday service with additional services as the church year is celebrated. Three choirs. Job description available in the church office 9-12 weekdays, 717-867-4011. Please submit resume to Attn: Worship and Music Committee, St. Mark Lutheran Church, 200 E. Main St., Annville, PA. 17003 by June 15, 2010. Please call the office for additional information.

Central Presbyterian Church, Chambersburg - DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

Central Presbyterian Church, Chambersburg PA, seeks a full time Director of Music Ministry who is willing and able to encourage the church to join together glorifying God and to draw people into His presence. The successful candidate will have a vision for worshipping through music, be well versed in sacred music, adept in traditional and contemporary worship, relate well to a variety of ages, and possess the ability to grow our music program. A music related degree from an accredited college is required, as is training and experience directing sacred vocal choirs, hand bells, and contemporary worship.

Central Presbyterian, founded in 1868 in the center of downtown, is a healthy, prayerful, growing, traditional congregation led by the Holy Spirit. God has blessed us with numerous musical resources, including but not limited to: a congregation of talented children, youth, and adults; a Casavant organ and Steinway concert grand piano; a 5-octave bell choir; Orff instruments; chimes; and recorders.

Interested candidates should send a resume & references to:

Central Presbyterian Church
Director of Music Ministry Search Committee
Attn: Mr. Duane Gooch, Chair
40 Lincoln Way West
Chambersburg, PA 17201

Or electronically to:

search@centralonthesquare.org

Looking to use your musical talents?

Longing to bring your skills and passion to a congregation where your creativity and flexibility will be welcomed and encouraged?

Shenkel United Church of Christ, Pottstown, Chester County, PA

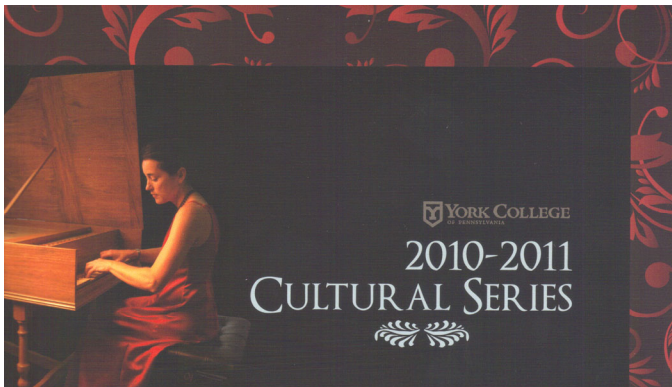
a 300+ member church with a reputation for friendliness, wants YOU as their Director of Music Ministry. We offer a competitive salary commensurate with experience.

To apply please contact Barbara Brown at Shenkel

United Church of Christ at shenkelucc@aol.com or 610-326-3535.

St. Jacobs Lutheran Church, Glenville, soon to be Glen Rock, Pa Director of Music Ministries

St. Jacobs Lutheran Church will move soon into a newly built church home, and is looking for a Director of Music Ministries who wants to serve Christ and his Church in ways that are faithful to tradition yet innovative. The individual who applies should be a fine organist and pianist, personable, able to create a vision for building up the congregation's music ministry and then enthusiastically share that vision with the congregation including the adult and children's choirs. At present, the congregation worships once weekly, but will add an additional service on Sunday mornings once we move. Salary is highly competitive, and will increase as responsibilities increase. A full job description is available through the church office at 235-7313 or on our website, <http://www.stjacobschurch.org/>. For questions, please contact Rev. Paula Murray at 817-3165.



For more information, call 717-815-1349 or go to
<http://www.yorkcollegecommunications.com>

THE FALL 2010 YORK COLLEGE CULTURAL SERIES

SEPTEMBER 2010

ART

Aug. 27 - Sept. 22
 Represent: Baltimore (Part 1)
 Brossman Gallery
 Dawn Gavin: Last Look Behind
 Reception: Sept. 2 5:00 - 7:00 pm

ART

Aug. 27 - Sept. 22
 Represent: Baltimore (Part 2)
 Cora Miller Gallery
 Magnolia Laurie: Ground Dwelling
 Reception: Sept. 2 5:00 - 7:00 pm

LECTURE

Sept. 23 7:00 pm Humanities 218
 Professor Ania Loomba, Catherine Bryson Chair, University of Pennsylvania
 "The Border and Boundary between Colonialism and Postcolonialism"

FILM

Sept. 30 7:00 pm Humanities 218
 "Beeswax"

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Sept. 30 6:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 Ed Diener, Joseph R. Smiley
 Distinguished Professor of Psychology,
 University of Illinois
 "Positive Psychology"

ART

Sept. 30 - Oct. 25
 York College Galleries
 Clarence Morgan: Notes and Ideas
 Reception: Sept. 30 6:00 - 8:00 pm
 Lecture: Sept. 30 5:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall

OCTOBER 2010

MUSIC

Oct. 2 3:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 Faculty Percussion Recital
 Edward Zaryky

THEATRE

Oct. 5 - 9 7:00 pm "Cinderella Waltz"
 Perko Playpen Theatre

FILM

Oct. 21 7:00 pm Humanities 218
 "Great World of Sound"

MUSIC

Oct. 24 3:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 The Piano Music of Chopin and Schumann, Part I. Faculty Piano Recital,
 Kenneth Osowski

THEATRE

Oct. 26 - 30 7:00 pm "Bug"
 Perko Playpen Theatre

NOVEMBER 2010

ART

Nov. 4 - Dec. 1
 York College Galleries
 YCP Faculty Biennial
 Reception: Nov. 4 4:00 - 6:00 pm

THEATRE

Nov. 3 - 6 7:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 "The Country Wife"

MUSIC

Nov. 7 3:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 The Piano Music of Chopin and Schumann, Part II. Guest Artist Piano Recital, Keiko Sekino

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Nov. 11 7:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 Richard S. Lindzen, Alfred P. Sloan
 Professor of Meteorology,
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 "Alarming Global Warming:
 Is Skepticism Justified?"

MUSIC

Nov. 14 3:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 Wind Symphony Concert

LECTURE

Nov. 18 7:00 pm Humanities 218
 Professor Stephen Asma, Scholar-in-Residence, Columbia College,
 Chicago "Monsters, Dreams, and the Moral Imagination"

FILM

Nov. 18 7:00 pm Humanities 218
 "Born on the Fourth of July"

MUSIC

Nov. 20 3:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 Faculty Harpsichord Recital,
 Gretchen Dekker

MUSIC

Nov. 21 3:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 Chorale and Chamber Singers Concert

THEATRE

Nov. 30 - Dec. 4 7:00 pm
 Perko Playpen Theatre
 "Simpatico"

DECEMBER 2010

THEATRE

Dec. 1 - 3 1:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 "A Christmas Carol"

MUSIC

Dec. 2 7:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 The Piano Music of Chopin and Schumann, Part III.
 Student Piano Recital

MUSIC

Dec. 7 7:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 Jazz Ensemble Concert

LECTURE

Dec. 8 7:00 pm Humanities 218
 Professor Alice Dreger, Northwestern University, "Conjoined Twins, Little Penises, and Other Border Crises in Medicine: How Doctors Try to Manage Babies with Socially-Challenging Bodies"

MUSIC

Dec. 9 7:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 York College Percussion
 (Groove) Ensemble

ART

Dec. 10 - 21
 York College Galleries
 Fall 2010 Art & Design Senior Exhibition
 Reception: Dec. 10 5:45 - 7:30 pm

MUSIC

Dec. 10 7:00 pm
 DeMeester Recital Hall
 York College Percussion
 (Traditional) Ensemble

MUSIC

Dec. 11 3:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 York College Community Orchestra

MUSIC

Dec. 12 3:00 pm
 Collegiate Performing Arts Center
 Holiday Festival Concert



Wilson College announces a FREE “Pedals, Pipes & Pizza” workshop to be held in the Thomson Alumnae Chapel on the Wilson campus on Saturday, October 23, from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Organist Tom Sheehan, who is currently serving as organ scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church in Princeton, New Jersey, will lead the workshop which encourages interest among young people in the pipe organ and its repertoire. It is being funded by Wilson 1938 alumna Selma Thomson of Chambersburg.

The workshop is open to students age 10 through those who are seniors in high school. Students are encouraged to bring a piece of their favorite music and Sheehan will work with them on perfecting their performance of the selection on the organ. He will also perform for the students and at the end of the workshop, and all students who attend will be treated to a free pizza lunch.

For information and registration for this workshop, call (717) 262-2003 or email klehman@wilson.edu.

Wilson College is located at 1015 Philadelphia Avenue, Chambersburg, PA 17201.

Tin Pan Alley Alive!

David Giardina, lyric baritone & Paul Bisaccia, pianist

The opening concert of the Trinity Concert Series 2010/2011 will take place on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 4:00 p.m. and will feature pianist Paul Bisaccia - a familiar face to Trinity concert goers - and lyric baritone David Giardina, a star of New York's Rainbow Room. They will present Tin Pan Alley Alive!, a pure Americana review of favorite songs from the first part of the 20th century. Giardina actually lives on the legendary Tin Pan Alley in New York and is a specialist in this genre.

Tin Pan Alley Alive! refers not only to the bygone era of great American songwriting but also to the section of New York City where these treasures were created by the likes of George & Ira Gershwin, Victor Herbert, Irving Berlin, Cole Porter and countless others – namely on 28th St between 5th and 6th Ave.

David Giardina is a dynamic lyric baritone crooner who specializes in the great American Songbook from the 1920's and 1930's – an era often referred to as “Tin Pan Alley”. Since 1994, David has crooned with top swing orchestras and pianists at such venues as the world famous Rainbow Room, command performances at the United Nations, Swing 46, Grand Central Partnership, the Central Park Band shell and many others. David is also an award winning film writer/director/producer. He began acting at age 12 with various theater companies around Connecticut including Oddfellows Playhouse (where he studied acting, script writing and directing and more), Theatre First, Company 1 in Hartford, and the Alliance Theater Group in New Haven. After graduating from Hofstra University, Mr. Giardina moved to New York City and began acting professionally in film, television and stage productions including “As The World Turns”, “NY's Most Wanted” (he played the criminal of the week!), After School Specials for ABC and CBS, including Linda Lavin's directorial debut “Flour Babies”, as well as comic roles on the USA Network, appearing opposite Gilbert Gottfried.

Paul Bisaccia has performed around the country and around the world. He has made a particular specialty of the music of George Gershwin, although his repertoire and musical interests are wide ranging. He was the first artist to record the complete solo piano music of Gershwin and his PBS television special “Gershwin by Bisaccia” has been broadcast throughout the U.S. and seen by millions. The program was also dubbed into Mandarin Chinese for broadcast in Asia. Popular recording and cabaret star Michael Feinstein reacted to Bisaccia's Gershwin television program by saying “How wonderful! It just proves that talent always prevails in these times of mediocrity.” This will be Paul's 3rd appearance at Trinity.

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 2000 Chestnut St., Camp Hill. Call 737-8635 for more information. The church's website is www.trinitycamphill.org. The concert is free and open to the public.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, Sept. 19 4:00PM	York AGO Vespers, Installation, Ted Herzel	St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 25 W. Springettsbury Ave. York
Sunday, Sept. 26 4:00PM	Tin Pan Alley Alive!	Trinity Lutheran Church 2000 Chestnut St. Camp Hill (see page 7)
Tuesday, October 19 7:00PM	Organ Trivia & "Pot Luck" Dessert Social	Cheryl Huber residence 2990 Lehigh Road, York, PA
Saturday, Oct. 23 10:AM-Noon	Pedals, Pipes & Pizza	Thomson Alumnae Chapel, Wilson College Chambersburg, PA (see page 7)
Sunday, Oct. 24 3:00PM	Tom Sheehan Concert	Thomson Alumnae Chapel, Wilson College Chambersburg, PA (see page 9)
Sunday, Nov. 14 3:00PM	Paul Jacobs Concert	Union Lutheran Church 408 W. Market St. York, PA

Belle Voix Vocal Ensemble is holding auditions for all voice parts (SATB) and membership in the ensemble. **Belle Voix** is dedicated to the performance and promotion of choral music, both accompanied and a cappella, in many styles and from all periods of Classical Music. The ensemble rehearses on Wednesday evenings at Grace United Church of Christ on Fourth Street in Hanover. The ensemble is part of the ecumenical outreach of Grace UCC.. To schedule an audition or obtain more information, please contact Beth Pugliese, Artistic Director, 717-487 – 1207 , or send an email to belle_voix@comcast.net. New members accepted until September 16. for the Fall Concert Series.

The Van Looy Series

The Van Looy Series is named in honor of Ellen Van Looy Reed '53. Ellen's mother, Priscilla Van Looy, donated the total cost for the rebuilding of the console and relays of the Möller organ.

The concerts and receptions are underwritten by Ellen Van Looy Reed '53.

THE HISTORIC MÖLLER ORGAN

In 1936, Virgil Fox (1912-1980) was selected by Isabel Dungan Ferris, organ professor at Wilson College, as a consultant for the Thomson Hall Alumnae Chapel organ project to draw the stoplist. Working closely with the late Richard O. Whitelegg, tonal director of M.P. Möller Inc., builder of the instrument, Fox crafted a specification far ahead of the period.

The instrument was able to survive the Baroque revival period in the 1960s and 1970s, when many of these instruments were destroyed tonally and in some cases altogether. With the return to a more romantic approach of organ building and playing, this organ is now being appreciated anew for its tonal scheme. The only changes made to the Möller Organ since 1936 are the replacement of the console in 1974, the rebuilding of the console with new relays in 1993 and the total refurbishment to the console in 1994. We are pleased to present our 16th season since the refurbishment with the same musical excellence that has come to be expected from the Van Looy Organ Series year after year.

By *Irv Lawless*
Lawless & Associates Pipe Organ Company, Inc.

Ordering Information

MAIL • Send the attached order form – or print a special events form available at www.wilson.edu/events – along with a check or money order and self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Office of Conferences and Special Events, Wilson College, 1015 Philadelphia Ave., Chambersburg, PA 17201-1285.

TELEPHONE • Call the Office of Conferences and Special Events at 717-262-2003, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, and a Wilson representative will assist you with your credit card payment. A convenience fee may be applied to all credit card orders.

ONLINE • To order your tickets securely online, visit www.wilson.edu/events. Complete and submit the form to receive an order confirmation. A convenience fee may be applied to all credit card orders.

Tickets may be purchased at the door on the day of the performance.

Seating in Thomson Hall's Alumnae Chapel

Balcony	Balcony
General Seating (Rows I-V)	General Seating (Rows I-V)
Preferred Seating (Rows E-H)	Preferred Seating (Rows E-H)
Sponsor/Patron Seating (Rows A-D)	Sponsor/Patron Seating (Rows A-D)
STAGE	



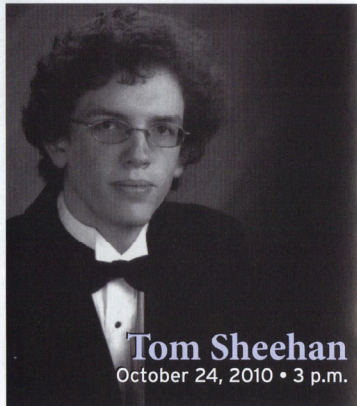
Office of Conferences and Special Events
1015 Philadelphia Ave., Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-262-2003 • www.wilson.edu

2010-2011 Van Looy Organ Series

Featuring Organists
TOM SHEEHAN and MARKO PETRIČIĆ

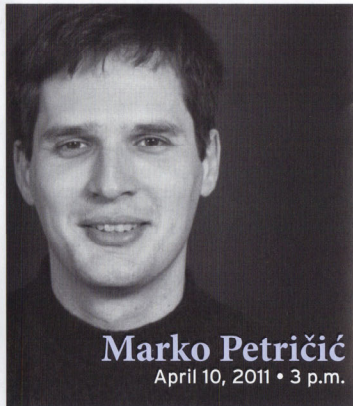


www.wilson.edu/events



Tom Sheehan
October 24, 2010 • 3 p.m.

Tom Sheehan currently serves as organ scholar at Trinity Episcopal Church in Princeton, New Jersey, and studies with Ken Cowan. In 2009, he was awarded first prize in both the Arthur Poister National Competition in organ-playing and the AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for the Mid-Atlantic Region III. His 2009-10 season included performances in New York City, N.Y., Chestertown, Md., Little Rock, Ark., and Lancaster, Pa. Last July, he was the featured "Rising Star" performer at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Washington, D.C. As an experienced accompanist, he has performed frequently with the Westminster Chapel Choir and the Westminster Schola Cantorum. In 2007, Mr. Sheehan toured England with the Trinity Church Choir (under the direction of Tom Whittimore), which included performances at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and Blackburn Cathedral and St. John's Chapel in Cambridge.



Marko Petričić
April 10, 2011 • 3 p.m.

Marko Petričić holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees from Indiana University, where he studied with Christopher Young. He also has a Bachelor of Music degree, *summa cum laude*, from Ohio University, where he was taught by H. Joseph Butler. Dr. Petričić recently taught applied organ lessons and organ literature at Indiana University, and is currently teaching music history at the University of Indianapolis. He was the assistant organist/choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Indianapolis from 2003 to 2006. Dr. Petričić won awards in numerous organ competitions, most notably, first place at the San Marino National Organ Competition in California in 2000. He has performed organ recitals throughout the United States, Germany, Sweden, Spain and Yugoslavia. Recently, he participated in the Summer Organ Academy in Leipzig, Germany, and French Organ Music Seminar in Paris, France. He is also an accomplished bayan-acordion performer.

Individual Tickets	Cost	Quantity		Total
		Fall	Spring	
General Admission Seating in rows I-V balcony	\$5			
Preferred Seating Seating in rows E-H	\$10			
Subscription Packages*				
Patron Two tickets for one concert of your choice, names listed in program, seating in rows A-D	\$50-\$99			
Sponsor Two tickets for each concert, business card ad in program, seating in rows A-D	\$100 and up			
Total Amount Due				

* A portion of your gift may be tax deductible.

Concerts will be held in Thomson Hall's Alumnae Chapel at Wilson College.

Name: _____
Street: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
Tickets are non-refundable.
Make checks payable to: Wilson College
Mail to: Office of Conferences and Special Events
1015 Philadelphia Ave.
Chambersburg, PA 17201
717-262-2003 • www.wilson.edu

AGO National Convention, July 5-8, 2010**by Dick Frey**

More than 2,100 organists, from all 50 states and 10 countries, descended on hot, muggy Washington, DC for the American Guild of Organists Convention July 5-8.

The event began with the Opening Convocation at the National Cathedral on Monday morning. What a thrilling way to begin, with a full congregation, choir, organ, brass & percussion in that marvelous acoustical environment. As with all AGO Conventions, there were many new pieces commissioned for the convention, and 3 of them were premiered at this service – two beautiful hymns, and an organ work – Variations on the Chinese hymn “Rise to Greet the Sun” (“L’e Ping”). I hope to use all three pieces here next year.

The first organ recital I heard was one of the best, by Paul Jacobs, Chairman of the Organ Dept. at Juilliard. He is one of the leading recitalists in the country, but this was the first time I was able to hear him. The organ was in the balcony, and they had a large projection screen in the front so we could see him. He played everything from memory, and with great expression.

Transporting 2,100 people by bus around the city of Washington is an incredible feat, and it was accomplished amazingly well. At any given hour of the day you had choices of several different concerts and workshops, all held in various churches around the city. The only glitch I experienced in all the bus trips we took was getting to the second concert Monday afternoon. The concert I was headed to, the Heritage Chorale, was the 3rd stop on the route, and we got there for the last two pieces. Fortunately, they did an encore!

A former student, Drew Kreisler and his former college roommate, Lee Milhous were at the choral concert, and we walked to lunch together. It was about a mile in the steambath-like heat & humidity, and our only requirements for a restaurant were that it be very cool inside, and have an adequate supply of ice!

I then attended a workshop on improvisation, not an easy subject to teach, but the professor from the Eastman School of Music did a good job of making it very practical.

Late Monday afternoon I attended a “Taize” worship service, accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble. It was very worshipful.

Monday evening we were back at the National Cathedral for an organ, choral, and orchestra concert. One of the pieces on the program was Samuel Barber’s “Toccata Festiva” for organ and orchestra. I had only heard it on recordings before, and hearing it live was an entirely different experience, and I really liked it.

Tuesday began in one of the most gorgeous churches I have ever been – St. Matthew’s Cathedral. It is the church where JFK’s funeral service was held. The whole sanctuary was in beautiful colored marble, with mosaic artwork. The acoustics, of course, were phenomenal, and perfect for the style of music that “The Woodley Ensemble” sang. My favorite selection was one by Arvo Part entitled “...which was the son of”. I never thought I would hear an anthem based on the genealogy from the beginning of the book of Matthew, but it was very creatively done, and is a piece I hope to use in Advent here. Next was a handbell concert by “Virginia Bronze”. One of the commissioned pieces premiered there was by Hart Morris, a composer and person I admire very much. I looked for him after the concert and couldn’t find him, but then ended up right next to him in the line for the bus! That concert was followed by a hymn festival led by Bruce Neswick. His arrangement of “Abbott’s Leigh” was stunning, and is another piece I will be ordering.

I then had some time to visit the exhibits, and even with the stacks of organ music I already have, I found some things I had to add to my library . . ! I also enjoyed chatting with the people at the Westminster Choir College booth.

Next on the schedule was a trip to Annapolis. I took the early bus so I could do a little sight-seeing before the evening’s concert. Annapolis is a charming little town, with beautiful shops and restaurants. At the restaurant I ate at, I ordered tilapia, and it came raw (I think it said “seared” on the menu.) I had never had raw fish before, but I know millions of

AGO National Convention (continued)

people have eaten it, and I survived! The evening's concert was in the huge Naval Academy Chapel, with a gigantic 250-rank organ played by David Higgs, Chairman of the Organ Dept. at Eastman. My favorite pieces in that concert were William Bolcom's gospel-style arrangement of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" (which is now on my "to-do" list), and his encore arrangement of "In a Persian Market". He made the organ sound like a theatre organ on that piece, complete with percussion effects, etc.

Wednesday morning brought two stirring worship experiences. The first was led by the Children's Chorus of Washington. They were very well-disciplined, with a beautiful sound. The children led all parts of the worship service except for the sermon, and did an outstanding job. One of the organists was a 16 year-old boy who played perfectly the 1st mvt. of the Bach-Vivaldi A Minor Concerto. The second service was one of the highlights of the convention for me. It was an African-American Worship Service held at Shiloh Baptist Church. It was Psalm 150 brought to life – they had a large choir, an orchestra, brass and tympani, harp, guitars, drum set, pipe organ, electronic organ, keyboard, grand piano, and dance. There were many different styles of music presented. It was an exhilarating worship experience.

The highlight of the afternoon was a "collaborative" recital at the National City Christian Church by organist Carol Williams and a 5-piece jazz ensemble. They performed an excellent commissioned work by Dorothy Papadakos. Then Carol performed on a mighty Hammond organ, and it is amazing smoke wasn't pouring out of it by the end of the piece! She concluded on the pipe organ with Bach's "Toccat & Fugue in D Minor", which after the traditional opening bars, went into a jazz arrangement of it. Super!

Thursday morning's organ concert was probably the highlight of the convention for me, and I have since heard that it was for many others as well. It was by Nathan Laube, a name we have increasingly been seeing as an organ recitalist, all over the world. He was celebrating his 22nd birthday on Thursday. It was held at National Presbyterian Church, which has a large and wonderful Aeolian Skinner organ. He started off with his transcription of Johann Strauss's "Overture to 'Die Fledermaus'". His impeccable technique, his rapid manual and registration changes, everything added up to a performance that left you breathless. Plus he has such a bubbly and bright personality, and interacts with the audience so well. He followed that with several big French pieces, everything from memory, not a note in the whole recital out of place. His encore was a Chopin piece that was sixteenth notes the whole way, pedals included, at lightning speed. I had the pleasure of sitting behind his family, who had flown in from Chicago, who were just bursting at the seams with excitement and pride. He will be heading to France this fall on a Fulbright scholarship. He is well on his way to the top of the organ world!

One of the joys of an event like this is to re-connect with friends and colleagues whom you haven't seen for many years. Before I left for the convention, Susan asked me, have you heard from Karen Chiappini lately? Karen was the organist at Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Ridgewood, right across the street from the church I served there for many years. Susan, Karen, and I were close friends, going through many experiences together. I had seen her once, just briefly, since we moved to PA 7 years ago. After I registered at the convention, I got in line for the bus, and Karen was right in front of me! We had a nice chat on the way to the cathedral. The rest of the week, we ended up at most of the same concerts, and we even ran into each other by the hotel restrooms two evenings in a row! In a crowd of 2,000 people, with so many events to choose from, it was truly amazing.

Another joy was staying with our dear friends, Barb and Dale Newbury, in Gaithersburg, MD. They gave me many great tips about places to go in Washington on our limited free time. I went to the American Art Museum and the American Indian Museum. Both were fantastic. They said the American Indian museum had the best food of any of the museums, and they were right! They also recommended a very unique tea house called "Teaism" and a Spanish restaurant, "Jaleo". On my check at Jaleo, it said that if Spain won the World Cup, your next meal at Jaleo would be free. Barb & Dale now get a free meal! Ole!!

You hear much these days about the severe shortage of organists, and the concern for the future of church music. This convention restored my faith that the organ world is in VERY good hands (so to speak) for the future. We heard so many amazing young organists. It was very encouraging. The Convention was a totally uplifting experience from beginning to end.

ORGEL ZEIT

The York Chapter of
The American Guild of
Organists

Send inquires and correspondence to
York Chapter, AGO
Attn: Victor Fields
P. O. Box 51
York, PA 17405-0051

www.yorkago.org

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Roy Wainwright, Editor
2897 Olde Field Dr.
York, PA 17408-4256
Voice: (717) 792-3408
gerimenu1@comcast.net



YORK CHAPTER OFFICERS

Victor Fields, Dean

858-4982

YorkAGODean@aol.com

Carolyn Smith, Sub-dean

410-374-8311

stan_smith@netrends.com

Secretary

Ian Shoff

ianshoff@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Registrar

Byron Daudelin

agoyork@comcast.net

Membership Committee Chair

Rodney Barnett 244-5020

rjbjsb@comcast.net

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Rev. Stanley Reep,

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Donna Snyder

Computer Resource

Rodney Barnett 244-5020

rjbjsb@comcast.net

Publicity & Archivist

Victor Fields 858-4982

YorkAGODean@aol.com