

# ORGEL ZEIT

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Victor Fields, Dean

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## 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



Due to a hectic very month of teaching, commuting, meetings, rehearsals, services and taking care of my mother who underwent 3 operations in the course of 1 week (She's fine now!), I was unable to find time enough time to write a message for the newsletter.

I'm sure we are busy preparing for Advent & Christmas services and concerts (I have 5 Christmas programs in 8 days), so I offer to you information about a very interesting music software program that is being used by a wonderful organist and colleague in Baltimore. Randy Mullin offers detailed information on being able to play church organs from around the world in your very own home. Please see the following pages.

Enclosed is a brochure describing the January Jumpstart program. York AGO members, we are sharing a bus with the Lancaster Chapter so I encourage you to attend this wonderful FREE program. Lunch costs \$15.00 and is well worth it. Last year, there were over 200 church musicians in attendance. The Jumpstart is a wonderful winter educational day of learning. Please read the enclosed brochure and sign up.

For now, I wish you a bright and cheerful Happy Advent, a Merry Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Victor Fields, Dean

## Hauptwerk

### What is it, and what it can do for you as an organist

Two years ago, when researching home digital organs, I came across a reference to Hauptwerk. I googled the name, and so began my immersion into what has just recently become a viable alternative for a home practice organ; I say recently, because of the falling prices of computers in general and the availability of very powerful home computers in particular.

What is Hauptwerk? It is a software program that runs on Windows and Macintosh computer systems. This program allows the organist to play organs recorded note for note from around the world, complete with room ambience, stop, key and blower noises. And since these are computer files, you can have as many as your hard drive will accommodate. There are currently 67 of these organs: early Spanish, French, Italian, German (including several Schnitgers and Silbermanns), Cavaille-Colls, a Willis, E. M. Skinner, Casavant, Marcussen, Schantz and two Wurlitzers. Many more are in the planning and development stages including the Cavaille-Coll of Notre Dame de Metz and the large four manual Zwolle Schnitger. From a tiny one manual to large four manual organs, these instruments can be played on any type of midi keyboard, but keyboards have been developed specifically for Hauptwerk which feature tracker touch and include multiple pistons which can be assigned to do anything that you want.

You access the stops of the organ by touching their stop knob representations on a computer touch screen. Hauptwerk allows the organist to use multiple touch screens for controlling stops. Therefore one screen can be used for the left stop jamb and one for the right. The multiple screen setup is given as an alternative to the standard all stop-one screen display. (Hauptwerk also has the capability of controlling actual stop controls on a console, if they can understand midi messages.) The recordings made by these "organs", called "sample sets" (a "sample" being a recording of one note), are very difficult to distinguish from recordings of the actual instruments. Words cannot adequately describe playing a French toccata on the sample set of the Ducroquet/Cavaille-Coll from St. Sauveur Cathedral in Aix-en-Provence, France in its 7 second acoustic and releasing the notes on a final tutti chord. Likewise, the simple beauty of playing individual stops or small combinations and hearing the associated tracker action sounds of the 1720 Bosch/Schnitger from Vollenhove, The Netherlands, can almost make you forget that you are playing a midi keyboard.

What is also amazing is that a Hauptwerk organ can fit in the corner of a small room and be easily disassembled with the largest component being the pedalboard. It can also be extended as funds become available.

So what are the basic requirements to make this a reality?

1. A computer savvy organist or an organist with a computer savvy partner or friend;
2. one, two or three midi tracker touch keyboards (currently \$800 each, Canadian);
3. a midi pedalboard (currently \$1565, Canadian);
4. a professional sound card for your computer (\$150- \$500);
5. a recent pentium II or Mac computer with at least 2 gigabytes of ram;
6. monitor(s), ideally touch screen;
7. an organ bench (perhaps you could get an old one from your organ technician);
8. an Ikea Gallant 63" table (\$150) (with telescoping, widely spaced legs for proper AGO height and to accommodate a pedalboard); and
9. professional quality headphones (\$150-\$300). (Although Hauptwerk sounds its best on high end headphones, you can also enjoy your playing through a stereo system.)
10. The Hauptwerk program (£ 325) and the organ sample sets that you may want to play currently range in price from free to 790 Euros. As part of the package, Hauptwerk includes a two manual, 30 stop, 1907 English village organ by Brindley and Foster, rebuilt by Nicholson in 1985.

For a very basic setup we are talking about an investment of a few thousand dollars, if you already own the computer. You can even assign pistons to your computer keyboard if you decide to start with an old midi keyboard. This can be upgraded with a computer dedicated solely to Hauptwerk. To play small organs (including at least one current three manual) in dry rooms a computer with 2 gigabytes of ram will probably suffice. If you want to play large organs in reverberant rooms you will need a computer with (2) quad core processors and at least 8 gigabytes of ram (starting at around \$6200).

Since Hauptwerk and the sample sets are software, they are constantly being upgraded in quality and features. Hauptwerk is currently at Version 3. Many of the sample set creators listen to their customers' suggestions and improve their "organs" by re-recording, if necessary, and adding pistons and other console aids which don't exist on the original instruments. Last year, one of the sample set creators discovered that recording multiple releases for every note, some for staccato and portamento playing, some for legato, greatly improved the realism in organs placed in very live rooms. Many others have followed suit and have gone back to the instruments to re-record all of those thousands of notes to get the detached releases. This is a labor of love and the end result is a very convincing hands-on documentary of how the instrument sounded at a particular point in history. The Hauptwerk sample sets can be an exceptional tool for exposing organ students to the characteristics of these and similar instruments. Unlike listening to a professionally made recording on historic instruments, Hauptwerk allows the performer to try out all of the individual stops, see how they work in combination, and create music of his/her own in the process. Of course this is not a substitute for playing the actual instrument, but it gives you a great appreciation for those instruments and an incentive to consider a pilgrimage to visit them.

If you would like to know more about Hauptwerk, you may view pictures of my Hauptwerk setup or read my tutorial which contains step by step instructions on how to assemble these instruments. Complete vendor information is also included at [http://www.randallmullin.com/hauptwerk\\_page.htm](http://www.randallmullin.com/hauptwerk_page.htm).

To hear demonstrations of these instruments to best advantage attach headphones to your computer. Here is where to begin.

<http://www.crumhorn-labs.com/Hauptwerk-SampleSets.shtml>.

Once on this webpage, select the instrument that you are interested in hearing. This will take you to the vendor's website, where you may click on the mp3 demo links to hear them.

Hauptwerk is one of the organ world's best kept secrets; one that deserves the exposure it will surely receive in the future.

*Randall Mullin is formerly Organist and Choirmaster of St. David's Church, Roland Park, Baltimore and is currently a freelance musician working in Maryland and southern Maine.*

## EVENTS CALENDAR

**Sunday, Dec 30, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Annual Service of Lessons and Carols.**  
The York Ecumenical Choral Society,  
Rodney Barnett, director; Todd Davis, organist.  
St. Rose of Lima Church, 950 W. Market St., York.



## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church** 128 S. Belvidere Avenue, York

Responsible for 10:30 AM Sunday worship, one Thursday night rehearsal for chancel choir,  
Two manual Allen digital organ. Salary negotiable. For information, contact: Church office, 843-7461  
or Ray Ensminger, 843-3562.

**Mt. Zion United Church of Christ** 1054 Ridgewood Road, York

Looking for a choir director to lead adult and children's music programs. The adult choirs include the Senior Choir, Jubilation, the Belles and the Saints. In addition, this person will provide music direction for the church's Grateful Praise Service. The youth choirs include Prayze Kids, SonBeams, and the Cherubs. Please respond to the church's personnel committee at [mtzionuccyorkpa@comcast.net](mailto:mtzionuccyorkpa@comcast.net)

## ALL HANDS ON DECK! January JumpStart 2008 Volunteers Needed!

Contact Katherine Reier: 215-517-4160; katherinereier@verizon.net

### Lunch greeters

4 people needed

Two teams of 2 people

You can switch-off and be able to eat.

First pair "on duty" at about 11:25

This means you'll need to leave the 10:30 session early.

You will be free to attend all other sessions.

Last pair on duty until about 12:45 or so.

Stand at the door of Congregational Hall (upstairs hall where lunch is served)

Greet people.

Check for lunch ticket/stamp on nametags or a brown bag in hand.

Direct people to the lunch serving tables, two lines at each of two tables.

### Registrars

3-4 people to work with Nancy Brown, registrar

Be there at 8:00, work until sessions begin at 9:00

Check people in, collect money, hand out nametags

### Clinician greeters

About 4 people needed

Arrive about 8:15; watch for clinicians to arrive

Greet, give nametags, show them to their classrooms

You will be able to attend any and all classes

### Classroom helpers

10 to 20 people needed

Choose ahead to time which classes you would like to attend

At the beginning of the class, ask people to fill out an evaluation and hand in their nametag holder if this is their last class.

Ask people to turn off cell phones

Give ground rules regarding reading packets. (We'll decide what those ground rules are.)

Introduce the speaker and get the class started

(No elaborate introduction is needed. "This is John Wanamaker who will talk about the arts as a servant of capitalism. Take it away, John, old boy.")

Take attendance.

Give a 2-minute warning at the end of the period.

### Coffee and refreshment team

2 people: get a friend

Buy food, coffee, tea, etc for refreshments

Or bake, or ask your friends and choir members to bake

(Thus saving the chapter money)

Submit receipts for reimbursement

One person needs to arrive at Bryn Mawr Pres at 7:00 AM

(I will arrive then and help with the initial coffee making)

Get the coffee urns going at 7:00, so the coffee is ready by 8:00

Set up the refreshments

Keep the tables tidy

### Utility Infielders

2 people needed

Stay available to help with various tasks during the morning sessions

Watch for presenters to arrive (those who do not teach at the 9:00 session will arrive later), greet, show them to their classrooms

You will be free to attend the afternoon sessions.

### Cleaner-uppers

2 people needed during the last session

Help tidy-up the place



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## SUBSTITUTE LIST

*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](http://www.agohq.org/profession/indexsalary)*

Scott Crowell	792-3920 (May—Aug & Christmas)
Elise Fasnacht	252-4820
Paul Lauer	843-2855
Jackie Linsey	292-2576
Marie Melusky	292-5758
Suzy Reimold	846-4408
William Wright	291-4012
Ruth Loyer	424-6739
Kay Wade	764-1585
Cameron Wentz	630-8980

## OFFICIAL YORK CHAPTER EVENTS

**Saturday, January 12, 2008, all day**  
**Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, Bryn Mawr, PA**  
January Jumpstart sponsored by Philadelphia AGO

**Saturday, February 9, 2008, 9:15 am – 12:30 pm**  
**Advent Lutheran Church, 1775 E. Market Street**  
Workshop by Wayne Leupold

**Sunday, March 30, 2008, 4:00 pm**  
**Christ Lutheran Church, 29 S. George St.**  
Organ Recital - Mary Preston, Dallas Texas

**Saturday, April 19, 2008, 9:00 am – Noon**  
**York County Heritage Trust, Christ Lutheran Church**  
**Trinity United Church of Christ, Capitol Theatre**  
Pedals, Pipes & Pizza  
Michael Britt, theatre organist

**Sunday, May 18, 2008, 3:00 pm**  
**St. John's Episcopal Church, N. Beaver St.**  
Student/Member Recital  
Hunt scholarship competition



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The York Chapter of  
The American Guild of  
Organists

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[www.yorkago.org](http://www.yorkago.org)

*Serving our community since 1935*

## PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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