

ORGEL ZEIT

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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



DEAN'S LETTER

Recently, a bride to be contacted me. She was searching desperately for an organist and pianist to perform for her Valentine's Day wedding ceremony because her church organist refused to play for her wedding with barely two weeks notice.

After a lengthy discussion concerning her requested music selections, (Bach, Copland and Debussy), I agreed to perform her ceremony for a substantial price. With only 16 days to prepare, I felt justified to charge a higher than normal fee.

As luck would have it, the bride called me a few days later to inform me that through a series of bad luck, (flooded basement, destroyed water heater, electrical wiring loss and the death of the beloved dog) she was not in a position to afford my services. In between her home misfortunes, the church notified her that the organ had broken down and was not playable!

Due to financial constraints, the beleaguered bride was forced to cancel my services and decided to go with a back-up pianist playing less difficult selections. I don't know if the organ has been repaired.

This leads me to an interesting article concerning emergency organ repair. I attended a workshop on emergency organ repair given by an organ technician at the January Jumpstart church music day in Philadelphia. This information provided to the participants was informative so I am gladly sharing it with you should organ malfunction misfortune befall on you!

Victor Fields, Dean



PIPE ORGAN CARE

- 1.) The most common emergency call on Saturday or early Sunday morning; *The organ will not turn on!!!*

What to look for: Chances are that a circuit breaker or power switch has been turned off. Check all breaker panels and fuse boxes. Don't forget breakers that may be in the blower room. There are also tube style fuses in the blower room between the electrical panels and blower motor.

- 2.) *The organ blower starts but the organ doesn't play and the pistons don't work.*

What to look for: The organ's electrical system is 12 volts, direct current. Therefore, there is a transformer (the trade name is "rectifier") usually located in the same area as the blower. Often, the rectifier is supplied current through a separate circuit. As in item 1, check all breakers and fuses.

- 3.) *Cipher(s)!*

What to look for: If there is insufficient time to contact your organ service provider, you have 2 choices: A.) Turn off the ciphering organ and use the piano or, B.) Since most of us would prefer to use the organ for Sunday worship, find and silence the cipher. First, try to locate the offending stop and note at the console. Sometimes repeatedly striking the note will clear the cipher. If that doesn't work and you have narrowed down the division, stop and note, proceed into the chamber. Find the cipher by slowly moving your hand above the pipes while trying not to touch the pipes so as to knock them out of tune. Once you have found the ciphering pipe, lift it off the chest and lay it on the walkboard. If someone else is available to sit at the console, ask the person to play the ciphering note. Often there may be dirt lodged in the valve area and removing the pipe and playing the note will dislodge the dirt particles and the cipher has been stopped. If the cipher continues and the escaping wind is going to be distractive for the service, place a piece of tape over the toe hole of the pipe and place the pipe back into its place on the chest.

- 4.) *There is a dead note on the Trumpet / Oboe / Clarinet right in the middle of my solo line!*

What to look for: Of course, dead notes will be more difficult to locate than a cipher but often the dead reed note is caused by debris wedged in the vibrating reed. There are several types of wind chest layout arrangements so you may have to look very carefully for the dead pipe. Once found, remove the pipe, carefully remove the boot covering the reed, run a dollar bill between the reed tongue and shallot, re-attach the boot and place the pipe back into the chest. Check to be sure the note is in tune. If not, have an assistant hold the note with an octave above or below and tap the tuning wire up or down with a tool such as a screwdriver, scissors, etc.

5.) *The combination action is jammed and the stops won't move at all or go back in after pulling them out!*

What to look for: Check for a piston or toe stud that is stuck in, wedged, or simply requires excessive effort to move. After releasing the piston or toe stud, try to avoid using it until your technician can correct the problem.

6.) *Multiple ciphers and/ or dead notes!*

What to look for: Water damage is the most likely problem caused by a roof leak, plugged drains, etc. There is not much that can be done without calling your technician.

How much insurance coverage should our organ have? Replacement value is \$20,000.00 + per rank!

PIPE ORGAN TIPS

TEMPERATURE - Tuning of the pipe organ is based on A-440 @ 70 degrees. The pipe organ is a wind instrument and controlled by the laws of physics. Therefore, if the chamber temperature falls below 70 degrees, the pitch will be flat. If the temperature is higher than 70, the pitch will be sharp. When we make an appointment with your church for tuning, please make sure that the heat or air conditioning (if applicable) has been on for at least 12 hours to be sure that the temperature is even throughout the room and chambers. With these days of increasing fuel costs, it is understandable that church temperatures must be lowered during the week. We recommend that the temperature be set to 60 degrees during the week and raised to 70 degrees on Saturday evening.

TUNING INTERVALS - Most tuning intervals are based on the size of the instrument and the basic environmental conditions, which may affect the tuning. However, many of our customers are scheduled for tuning before Easter, during or at the end of summer, and in the fall before Christmas. If your church is air conditioned, the second tuning should be done when the air conditioning is being used. A good time would be during the month of June when the weather outside is warm enough for the air conditioning to be used regularly. If your church is not air conditioned, then the second tuning should be done in September, after the hottest weather is gone.

STORAGE - Please do not use the organ chambers or blower room for storage of anything. Items stacked near or on a blower can impede the flow of air and cause pitch problems. Since the wind systems of the pipe organ expand and contract to maintain proper pressure as the organ is played, storage in the chamber can affect how well the organ works in addition to causing damage to the components which will be expensive to repair.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS - If your church is considering a construction project anywhere in the same building which houses the pipe organ, please call us for advice on protecting the organ properly against dust and dirt intrusion or location of wiring, wind lines, etc. (Advice is free!) For example, plastering and drywall work creates an enormous amount of dust which will lay on the organ chests and inside the pipes causing muffled sound and speeding up the decay of important components such as leather. A small amount of time can save a large amount of money!

Events Calendar

Friday, March 7, 7:30 - Thiel College Choir, at Christ Lutheran Church, 29 S. George Street. 717-854-5589.

Sunday, March 9, 4:00 - Nathan Laube, organist, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 31 S. Duke Street, Lancaster. Mr. Laube is the artist pupil of Alan Morrison at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and assistant for the Wannamaker Grand Court Organ.

The Muses, York County's Premier Harp Ensemble (of which York AGO Chapter board member, Ruth Ann Burke, is a part) will be performing on March 9, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Lancaster. The seven harp-ers and one vocalist will perform Classical, Celtic, Sephardic and Americana works. The church is located at 140 E. Orange Street (between Lime and Duke) in downtown Lancaster. There is offstreet parking behind the church.

Sunday, March 30, 4:00 - Mary Preston, organist, Christ Lutheran Church. 29 S. George Street. Mrs. Preston is the principal organist and Lay Family Chair with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. For more info, call 717-854-5589

Sunday, April 20, 4:00 - Matinee Music Club, "The Organ Now and Then", Christ Lutheran Church, 29 S. George Street, 717-854-5589

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

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Scott Crowell | 792-3920 (May—Aug & Christmas) sc002@lvc.edu |
| Elise Fasnacht | 252-4820 synch182@gmail.com |
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| Cameron Wentz | 630-8980 cellogeek2008@comcast.net |
| William Wright | 291-4012 |

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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

Looking for a Music Director to lead adult choir programs and plan music for special services. The choirs include the Senior Choir, Jubilation, The Belles and the Saints. Would also provide music direction for the church's Grateful Praise Service. Please respond to the church's personnel committee at mtzionuccyorkpa@comcast.net or mail resume to Mt. Zion UCC, 1054 Ridgewood Road, York, PA 17402

Zwingli United Church of Christ, 403 W. King Street, East Berlin

Music position available. For information please contact 717-259-0623.

Two manual Moller pipe organ..

OFFICIAL YORK CHAPTER EVENTS

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 – 12:30

York County Heritage Trust, Christ Lutheran Church

Trinity United Church of Christ

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

Sunday, May 18, 2008, 3:00 pm

Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, 140 N. Beaver St.

Student/Member Recital

Hunt scholarship competition

Pipe Organ Encounter + , *For Adults*

June 15-20th, 2008

Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Highlights of the Week:

Daily lessons and practice, Workshops and classes specializing in the playing of hymns, practice techniques, registrations, repertoire and pedaling; Evening programs: Compline Choir, Duquesne University Chapel: Hymn Festival, Epiphany Roman Catholic Church, Pittsburgh Chapter Member Recital, First Lutheran Church, River Cruise along Pittsburgh's three rivers, and a closing banquet.

Faculty: Larry Allen, David Billings, David Craighead, Dan Hardin, Ann Labounsky, Denise Lanning, Barbara McKelway, June Miller, Ray Ocock, Cynthia Pock, Andrew Scanlon, Doug Starr, Joyce Strobel, Richard Szeremany, John Walker, Nancy Watson

Housing provided at Duquesne University in an air-conditioned, non-smoking dormitory. Housing is based upon single rooms, unless other arrangements are requested. Meals will be available on campus at the cafeteria/dining hall. Several meals are scheduled to be served at locations of gatherings, which take place away from Duquesne. Parking located at the Forbes Avenue garage on campus. Directions distributed upon receipt of registration. Financial Assistance for the POE+ might be granted by contacting your local AGO chapter, and/or your church or synagogue.

For more information and eligibility requirements, please contact Mark Nurnberger, m.nurnberger@belc.org, 412-486-0550, or Signe Mitchell, e30seom@zoominternet.net, 724-482-5062. The registration deadline is May 23, 2008.

POE Event

The Lincoln, Nebraska chapter of the American Guild of Organists is offering a brand new type of Pipe Organ Encounter this summer, July 6-11, following on the success of 20 years of POESs. This new Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced is designed for the intermediate to advanced teenage organist, offering a more in-depth and intense experience than the normal POE. Students will need to send an audition recording before they may attend the POEA. You can get more information and download a brochure and application at the Lincoln AGO website: www.agolincoln.org/poead/poead.html.

For more information, please contact Christopher Marks, csmarks.organ@gmail.com, 402-472-2980.

Vernon de Tar Scholarship Competition, Delaware Chapter

Competition for the Scholarship is open to organ students who are from 12-18 years of age, as of the date of the competition, and who reside within Region III of the AGO. Applicants must perform at the competition, which will be held at First and Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, Delaware on Saturday, April 5, 2008, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

For more information and requirements, please contact David Schelat, 302-654-5371 x 18,, schelat@fandc.org

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— Hans Christian Andersen

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland

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The American Guild of
Organists

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