

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Les Bois Chapter

www.agoboise.org

*The purpose of the American Guild of Organists
is to encourage excellence in the performance
of organ and choral music and to support and
inspire each other.*

From the Dean

Greetings,

Perhaps one of the greatest challenges facing religious establishments today is “Post-Modern Culture”, with its emphasis on popular values and relativism. Church music people with “classical” training tend to view the use of popular music—early manifested in the U.S. as folk groups, now as rock (=“Praise”) bands—with disdain. And it would seem that the groups themselves give people lots of ammunition: a seeming glorification of the mediocre in music skills and choices; too much emphasis on the performance aspect; an apparent shallow “hand-clap” mentality over a deeper spiritual reflection . . . Sadly, it would seem that many “pop” people view the “traditional” people with equal mistrust, seeing them as arrogant elitists.

All of this is the product of today’s enculturation movements (originally called “Diversity”) which try to adopt worship (and product commercials) to the specifics of each culture group, creating a consumerist mentality where things are judged by our personal likes or dislikes. It has created a splintered church. At St. John’s Cathedral, we have six Sunday services, each with a specific cultural emphasis, running the gamut from “Classical” to “Rock” to “Hispanic” and even “Polish” on Christmas.

The challenge in all this for musicians is, first, to try to find the commonalities in order to bring as much unity, at least among the musicians, as possible. And musicians have more in common than in difference, beginning with a love for expressing their divine devotion through music. The choice of musical style is merely like a language chosen: it is the medium through which our common experience is expressed. Essentially, there are no “good” or “bad” styles, just “good and “bad” versions of a style. Which brings up a

second point: try to do pieces that we feel to be better musically and textually—and, especially, do them well—in tune, blended and balanced. A third thing is: work to understand the language of the style and the message underlying it. Pop Culture is, and will be, an important part of Western life today, and we should accept it as part of our tool kit. Dr. Eileen Gunther remarked that today’s organist must be able to play keyboard with the Praise Group at one service and do a movement from a Bach Trio Sonata on the organ at another. Such is life today.

~ Ray Morvant

Welcome

We would like to welcome Sheryl Hillman to the chapter board as the Membership Coordinator. We look forward to working with her, and know she will be a great asset to our chapter.

Thank You

We would like to thank A.J. and Susie Balukoff for opening their home and hosting the annual chapter Christmas party. An enjoyable time was had by all who attended.

Upcoming Chapter/AGO Events

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Saturday, January 28, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, "Cathedral of the Rockies," 717 N. 11th St, Boise.

Free

Dr. Tom Robin Harris will be presenting this fabulous event to children ages 10 - 17. This event is open to all piano students, and children interested in learning about the organ. A

December 2011

registration form will be posted on the chapter website, and will also be mailed to many piano teachers in the area. If you would like to make sure you are on this mailing list, send your information to Kirk Higginson, khiggy@cableone.net, or 841-2622.

Progressive Brunch

Tentatively Saturday, February 25, 2012, 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Cost: \$20 in advance. \$25 at the door.

Locations:

1. *Southminster Presbyterian Church, 6500 W. Overland Road.*

2. *The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 2290 Warm Springs Avenue*

Schedule: The morning will begin with a continental breakfast at Southminster Presbyterian Church, followed by a recital. Attendees will travel to the LDS chapel on Warm Springs Avenue for refreshments and recital. Details are still being finalized.

Salt Lake City Organ Crawl

Great progress has been made on the planning of this event. We have narrowed down the weekend to two options.

1 - April 20-21

2 - June 1-2

We would like input from everyone on which date is the best for them. This is also the time to commit and sign up. Space is limited to 10 people. A waiting list will be made.

The tentative schedule is:

- Friday evening: University of Utah, dinner, Cathedral of the Madeleine.
- Saturday morning: Temple Square including the Tabernacle, concluding with the noon recital.

Contact Robyn, newsletter@agoboise.org, or 375-9866, with the following info:

- date preferred, or if both dates are good;
- transportation needs to and/or from Salt Lake;
- lodging needs.

Hotel and meal costs will be up to each individual.

We need at least 5 people to make this trip worthwhile to the venues that we are visiting.

Organ Crawl/Open Bench

The tentative location is the Hemingway Center at Boise State University. The date will be determined after a date for the Salt Lake organ crawl has been determined.

2012 AGO National Convention

July 1-6, 2012

Nashville, Tennessee

Visit www.ago2012.org for complete details. The early registration deadline is February 14, 2012.

Other upcoming events

KU Italian Organ Study Tour

May 16-28, 2012

The University of Kansas will sponsor an organ study tour of Italy. This tour is open to anyone. It will be directed by Professor Michael Bauer working in conjunction with the noted Italian organist Francesco Cera. The tour will focus on restored Renaissance and Baroque instruments. There will be ample time available to take in the art and architecture of the various cities. Sites include Rome, Rieti, Assisi, Siena, Florence, Bologna, Mantova, and Venice. For further information see www.organ.ku.edu or write mbauer@ku.edu.

"First Fridays" Concert

The first Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m. First United Methodist Church, "Cathedral of the Rockies," 717 N. 11th St, Boise.

"First Fridays" is a new chamber music concert series held at Boise First United Methodist Church, "Cathedral of the Rockies," with concerts held on the first Friday of each month now through May.

Jan. 6, 2012 - "Look What We Bratsche". Viola ensembles and music featuring the viola.

Feb. 3 - "Family Ties". Music composed by people who have a more famous relative.

Mar. 2 - "Rites of Spring". Baseball, Stravinsky, and more.

Free admission, although a suggested donation of \$10 will be accepted at the door. Contact: Jennifer Drake jdrake@boisefumc.org.

Send event notices to newsletter@agoboise.org

Les Bois Chapter Executive Committee

Dean:

Raphael "Ray" Morvant
dean@agoboise.org

Sub-Dean:

Trina Moore
happyorganfeet@hotmail.com

Treasurer:

Kirk Higginson
treasurer@agoboise.org

Membership Coordinator:

Sheryl Hillman
sheryl_hillman@hotmail.com

Members-at-Large:

Nancy Mitchell
nmitchboi@aol.com
Gary Stringham
gstringham@aol.com

Newsletter:

Robyn Henrie
newsletter@agoboise.org

Website:

Ryan & Robyn Henrie
ryan@henrie.org