

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
Les Bois Chapter Newsletter—May-June 2012

*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

Among the many benefits offered by the American Guild of Organists is the Professional Certification process. For organists, there is: Service Playing Exam (SPE), Colleague Exam, Associate's Exam, and Fellowship Exam. It is said that, in the early years of the Guild, it was determined impractical to offer degree programs through the AGO, so a series of certifications was devised: the Colleague being roughly equivalent to a Bachelor's Degree, with the Associates approximating a Master's and the FAGO, a Doctorate. While it is true that earning any of these certificates is quite a feather, the actual process of preparation for the exams itself is beneficial. Here are just a few that I have experienced in preparing for certification:

1. Technique. Undoubtedly, the most obvious—the most outward—is better technique. For many, deadlines are motivation. The anticipation of an upcoming exam puts practicing up several notches in priority. In an ideal world we would put in a couple of hours of practice 5 or 6 days a week. But, in reality, things get in the way. Having an exam looming inspires us to find more practice time.
2. Inspiration. I find as I prepare for exams, the new material that I work on inspires my approach to other music that I am already using. Of course, this is the case in any learning situation, but with the "looming exam", there is that tendency to dig a little deeper in to the new "required" material. I also find that, in my regular playing, I notice a freshness that has resulted from this "forced" exploration.
3. Motivation. As I mentioned earlier, a deadline can be the best motivation. I always feel "good about myself" when I am developing, exploring, and learning. So, accompanying the exam preparation is (often) a heightened sense of well-being

and accomplishment.

So, there is more than just a certificate to be gained from the certification process. In fact, the certificate itself is only a sign of all of these other positive elements which go with the process. It is also a sign that many of us have faced one of our greatest fears!

Les Bois Chapter Future Events

June Salt Lake City Organ Crawl

The date has been set! Chapter members will be traveling June 1 & 2 to Salt Lake City to see and play some of the area organs. The fantastic once in a life-time (really) schedule is:

Friday evening: organs at University of Utah and Cathedral of the Madeleine;

Saturday morning: organs on Temple Square including the Tabernacle. Return after a noon recital.

There is still space for a few more people and a car-pool if needed. You need to make your own room reservations.

Contact Sheryl Hillman at 602-2540 or sheryl_hillman@hotmail.com immediately.

Member Organ Recitals this Summer

*St. John's Cathedral 8th & Hayes St., Boise
12:00 to 12:30 P.M.*

During the three summer months, June, July and August, our members will be performing three half-hour noon-time recitals at St. Johns Cathedral. Guild members who would be interested in playing a recital now or in the future should contact our Dean.

October

Progressive dinner and recitals

Christmas Music Church Walk

The Les Bois Chapter is sponsoring a Christmas Music Church Walk with organ and other kinds of music. This event will take place December 26, 3-6 P.M. at downtown churches. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

Where in the World is this Console?



Chapter Elections Coming Up

Ballots will be mailed to all dues paying members this month. You will be able to vote by hard copy or e-mail.

Recommended Service Music by Kirk Higginson

Prelude: "Entrata"
Offertory: "Canzonetta"
Postlude: Fughetta No. 10

from Twelve Meditations Op. 167
by Joseph Rheinberger

For those of you who do not always play hymn based preludes and postludes, the Rheinberger pieces are excellent choices for your church service. Twelve Meditations Op. 167 is published by Amadeus (BP2315) and available through Boosey Hawkes in England. Among the twelve meditations are both loud and soft pieces and could be used for either Prelude, Postlude or Offertory. Twelve Fughettas Opus 123b is a Kalmus edition (K 04476), but I believe there are several other editions in print. Again among the twelve fughettas, you will find pieces that will work in any part of your service.

From the Fall 2011 AGO Examinations:

Dr. Morvant, earned
the CAGO Certificate, and
Sheryl Hillman
earned the Service Playing Certificate
Will YOU be next?



2012 AGO National Convention

July 1-6, 2012

Nashville, Tennessee

If you haven't been to a National Convention you really should go to this one. Really, I mean, Really. Visit www.ago2012.org for complete details.

Les Bois Chapter Executive Committee

www.ago Boise.org

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