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Region VIII—Pacific Northwest

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LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN

Dear colleagues and friends,

I write this as most of us are in the thick of Holy Week rehearsals and services. What a dramatic story we retell every year, and music is such an important part of it. My hope is that - whether you are playing, conducting or participating in the pews - this is a meaningful week for each of you.

I'm grateful to Jane Knobel for capturing our Taizé service and workshop in the article on page two, and for Barbara and Lanny for organizing our upcoming organ crawl to Corvallis and Albany. I urge you to contact Barbara as soon as possible on your intention to participate so we can plan carpooling and details at the venue. This will be a wonderful program with our friends from the Salem AGO Chapter.

For our May program, Richard Guy is organizing a unique performance opportunity for us. We will be taking two of David's portative organs into the courtyard of the Eugene Atrium to perform antiphonal music from the balconies. This concert will be part of the city's Saturday afternoon concert series and is a great way for us to reach out and share our love of organs and organ music with a new audience.

Richard and I have selected a number of possible musical selections from the literature. He will be contacting members to set up pairs of players and show you some of the compositions we've located. We'll have the organs set up at FUMC for rehearsals in the weeks beforehand. This should be a really fun event, please volunteer when Richard calls you.

— Julia Brown, Dean



APRIL PROGRAM — ROAD - TRIP !!

The Eugene Chapter of AGO will be joining with the Salem Chapter of AGO for a ROAD TRIP! On Saturday, April 14, we will venture to the north to explore some interesting pipe organs in Corvallis and Albany. The plan is to visit a variety of organs from old historic instruments to newer instruments, mechanical action to electro-pneumatic. We hope you'll plan to join us and our colleagues from Salem for this fun outing. The itinerary for the day is:

CORVALLIS:

1st United Methodist Church, Noack
Organ — 10 AM

1st Baptist, 1973 Reuter — 10:30 AM

1st Presbyterian, 1978 Balcom &
Vaughn — 11 AM

LUNCH

11:30 - 12:30 Bring your own sack
lunch. We will be eating at First Presby-
terian Church, with beverages provided.

ALBANY:

1st United Methodist Church, 1985
Moller Organ — 1 pm

Whitespires Presbyterian / Whitespires
Berean Church, 1906 W. W. Kimball
tubular pneumatic organ — 1:30 pm

1st Christian Church, 1903 Moller or-
gan, 2 pm.

— Con't'd on Page 2

MORE ON AGO ROAD TRIP

The tour will be over at 2:30 pm.

We will gather at 9 AM on Saturday, April 14 at the parking lot of First United Methodist Church in Eugene to organize carpools, distribute addresses and directions to the churches, as well as the specifications of the organs.

Please let Barbara Baird (bbaird@uoregon.edu) know if you intend to join the party, so that we'll have enough paperwork to go around.

REPORT ON MARCH PROGRAM

On March 10 the United Lutheran Church in Eugene was the setting for an informative Taizé workshop led by Linda Duffendack Oxley, Choir Director at First United Methodist Church, Eugene.

Participants were led in silence, meditation and repetitive chant-melodies with instrumental and improvisational support. The piano accompaniment by Dean Julia Brown led the singing with minimal flute and guitar support. Karen Williamson, Laura Parker and Rachel Petty served as cantors. An explanatory order of service including notation/words for the melodies was used.

Following the brief service, Linda elaborated on the methods and historical roots of Taizé worship, founded in 1960 by Brother Roger in the French village of Taizé where thousands of people from around the world now gather to participate in this multicultural ecumenical worship.

Useful materials with innovative ideas and chant melodies were given to workshop participants. Integrating Taizé strategies into a service could be as simple as the organist/instrumentalist quietly playing the harmonized melodies; using a melody chant as an anthem; or planning a Taizé service, all possible within any church or harmonious prayer-space. Linda Duffendack Oxley is a rich resource for anyone interested in Taizé worship.

— Jane Knobel



The Organ Loft is a radio program about choral and organ music, particularly music of the Pacific Northwest. The program is hosted by Roger

Sherman, Associate Organist of St Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. The Organ Loft features music of Pacific Northwest choirs and organs, composers and organ builders. Approximately 50% of the programming is organ, and 50% choral.

This program is underwritten and sponsored by your Eugene AGO Chapter on KWAX-FM and the University of Oregon radio network (webcast: KWAX-FM Homepage) Sundays at 8:00 AM and 6:00 PM

Eugene, 91.1 KWAX
Redmond, 88.5 KWRX
Florence, 91.5 KWVZ
Salem, 92.9; Newport, 91.9; Reedsport, 90.9;
Bend, 88.9; Sunriver 90.9

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Announcements, articles or any news of interest should be sent to our newsletter editor Richard Guy at rick-spro@value.net by the last Thursday of each month. The next newsletter's deadline is April 26.

AGO EUGENE CHAPTER

2011-2012 Schedule

Saturday, April 14 - 9 a.m. departure
Organ Crawl in Corvallis and Albany
(Joint program with Salem AGO Chapter)

Saturday, May 5 - 2 p.m.
Dueling Pipe Organs - Antiphonal Organ Music
Member Concert with 2 Portative Organs from
the balconies of the Eugene Atrium courtyard.
99 West 10 Avenue - Eugene

Monday, June 4 - 6 p.m.
End of year Banquet and business meeting.
Agate Alley Laboratory
2645 Willamette Street - Eugene

OBITUARY

David Craighead, organ recitalist and teacher of international stature, died March 26 in Rochester at age 88.

Mr. Craighead was organ professor at the Eastman School of Music from 1955 to 1992, heading the keyboard department's organ division. Before joining the Eastman faculty, he taught at Occidental College in Los Angeles from 1948 to 1995.

Mr. Craighead was born in 1924 in Strasburg, Pa. His father was a Presbyterian minister and his mother was an organist who gave him his first lessons. He attended the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia.

The New York Times said the he 'represents the American school of organists at its finest,' and the Los Angeles Times described him as 'an artist with few peers and no technical Alps left to scale.' He often played organ duos with his wife, Marian Reiff Craighead, who died in 1996.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Westfield Center for Early Keyboard Studies presents "Historical Eclecticism: Organ Building and Playing in the 21st Century". April 12-14, 2012 in Houston, TX. Featuring organs by Paul Fritts, Martin Pasi and Fritz Noack. For registration, hotel and schedule information please go to their website: <http://westfield.org/houston>

Organ Historical Society is holding its 2012 Convention in Chicago, July 8 to 13. Entitled "The City of Big Sounds", they are featuring many local instruments and musicians. Information about hotels, schedules and registration can be found at: <http://www.organsociety.org/2012/>

UPCOMING AGO CONVENTIONS

2012 AGO National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, from July 1-6. Details at <http://www.ago2012.org>. Over 70 workshops are being offered, and many concerts and other activities. Make sure to look at each TAO which features different aspects of the convention monthly.

Our **Regional VIII AGO Convention** in Salem, Oregon, is June 23-26. Please mark the dates and start making plans to join us on the beautiful campus of Willamette University in Sale. It promises to be interesting, educational, relaxing and an inspirational event. We're secured and ready to accept detailed information: www.agosalem.org There are many interesting things to see and do, all within walking distance of the campus. Bring your walking shoes, come early and / or stay later to enjoy all we have to offer. Elain McNitt, coordinator at emcn@att.net.