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LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN

Dear colleagues and friends,

As we begin this season of Advent I am reminded of how quickly time flies in December. It feels like there are never enough days to prepare the music, liturgies, extra programs and more. I try to remind myself that music, often the reason for my anxiety, is also the source of strength and peace. Familiar melodies such as *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, *Divinum mysterium* and *Es ist ein Ros'*, bring an inner calm and familiar texts remind me of the purpose for the season:

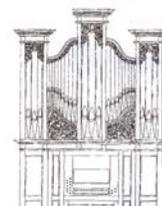
*Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.*
(Charles Wesley, 1744)

Music is such an important part of most people's experience of Advent and Christmas. May we be filled with the hope, peace and awe as we share our music with others.

On November 20th we gathered at the Christian Science Church for an informational meeting hosted by Richard Guy. Thank you, Richard, for your thorough preparation and delicious snacks. Those present received many handouts with information on sources for free and discounted scores, with addresses to websites, libraries, stores and more. Several members shared their experiences and Richard delighted us with stories and a stack of scores for perusal. If you were not able to attend this meeting I recommend you contact Richard for copies of these useful handouts.

I look forward to our upcoming **Christmas party** and introduction to the newest organ in Eugene – the Petty Op. 4 in Room 64 at the University of Oregon's School of Music. David Petty will be our speaker at this meeting on Monday, December 13 at 7 p.m.

— Continued, next column



Be prepared to get on the bench and play the new instrument. Photos, specifications and words from the builder can be found on page 2 of this newsletter.

Thinking ahead to 2011, there are two programs that you can be preparing for:

-Along the lines of *Pipe Screams*, our **January 15th** introduction to the organ is a great program for all ages and is designed as an informal concert with participation of our membership. Be thinking about music you might like to play – something that will effectively demonstrate the different stops and colors on the organ. Contact me for more information or to let me know what you would like to perform.

-In **February**, John Brombaugh will be discussing historical temperaments. A great introduction to the subject and a fun, short read is the paperback entitled *Temperament: How Music Became a Battleground for the Great Minds of Western Civilization* by Stuart Isacoff (ISBN-13: 978-0375703300). It costs \$10.20 (new) or \$3 (used) on Amazon. It might also be available at local bookstores.

The Amazon.com Review begins: "Involving mathematics, philosophy, aesthetics, religion, politics, and physics, Stuart Isacoff's *Temperament* invokes the tone of a James Burke documentary. However, the focus is not on a modern invention, but rather a modern convention: that of tuning keyboards so that every key is equally in tune--and equally out of tune." This is a fascinating topic, and Isacoff writes passionately about it. You might consider putting this book on your Christmas list – a gift for you or for someone else!

Julia Brown, Dean

PETTY OPUS 4 FOR U OF O MUSIC DEPARTMENT



David Petty and Associates are finishing the installation of a tracker action organ into a practice room at the University of Oregon Music Department. It replaces the older two manual Flentrop which was severely damaged when the lower floor flooded two years ago. Some pipework and the keyboards were salvaged and combined with new construction to create Petty Opus 4. The photo above shows the organ without the pipe shades in place.

We've asked David for a few words to describe his instrument and the work on it.

This instrument is an attempt to combine five vintage ranks (and the keyboards) from the previous instrument with six new ranks to produce a practice instrument with enough variety that it encourages students to stay and *work*. Many of the practice instruments I played as an organ student were so poorly voiced or uninteresting tonally (or both) that I didn't stay very long, the result being that I didn't practice much.

When Barbara Baird and I discussed the general scope of the instrument we both wanted to build, I mentioned that an instrument with expressive capability might be a plus, thus the upper manual is expressive. It is the only organ of the three at the U of O with that capability. She wanted a reed so there is a Regal in the upper manual, to be installed in December.

I thought it important that there be an 8' stop in each division; for budget and space reasons I have made it possible to play the Hauptwerk 8' Gedackt in the Pedal as well (transmission via "flip-flops"). All of the stops are complete ranks. There is no borrowing from any stop to complete any other.

The contract specifies 11 stops; I have installed a bonus 12th stop (8' Oak Gedackt) in the upper manual for my own musical reasons and have prepared the organ for a full-length 8' wooden Principal in the Hauptwerk - to be built and installed at my expense when I have time.

The case, exterior Soubass pipes, pedal board, bench, stop and key action were built by my former boss from the Brombaugh shop, Chris Fralick. I did the overall design, managed the project, built the chests, new pipes, wind system and have done all the voicing. I expect to be done early in the new year.

— David Petty

DISPOSITION OF PETTY OPUS 4

Manual I

8' Principal (wood)*
8' Gedackt (metal)
4' Octave (wood)
4' Flute (metal)
2' Principal (metal)

Pedal

16' Soubass (wood)
8' Gedackt (Man I)
4' Rohrflute (metal)

Manual II (Swell)

8' Rohrflute (metal)
8' Oak Gedackt
(quarter-sawn white oak)*
4' Koppelflute (metal)
2 2/3' Nasard (metal)
8' Regal (metal)

Couplers

I / II
I / P
II / P
Tremulant

AGO EUGENE CHAPTER

2010-2011 Schedule

December 13, 2010, 7 p.m.

Chapter Christmas Party at
U of O School of Music, Room 64
Program: Organ builder David Petty will introduce
us to the new Petty Opus 4

January 15, 2011, 10-11:30 a.m.

"Introduction to the King of Instruments"
1st United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive St, Eugene

February 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Resurrection Episcopal, 3925 Hilyard St, Eugene
Program: Organ builder John Brombaugh discusses
"Temperaments"

March 19, 2011, 10:00 – 12:00 noon

Potluck Brunch at Julia Brown's, 27 Marlboro Lane
Program: "Member share" playing harpsichords

April 29, 2011 - 6 p.m.

Post Easter Banquet and Business Meeting
Kowloon Restaurant - 2222 Martin Luther King Bl.

May 8, 2011, 4:00 p.m.

Mother's Day Organ Concert - Gail Archer performs
On the Brombaugh at Central Lutheran Church
1857 Potter Street - Eugene

ORGAN MUSIC LIVE ON THE INTERNET

Organlive.com is an Internet audio station dedicated to the music of the classical organ. Broadcasting since 2003, Organlive has become the most-heard organ station on the Internet. The broadcast is completely free to anyone with a broadband Internet connection and is now easier than ever to tune in. Listeners simply need one click at www.organlive.com to hear the broadcast through Windows Media Player, WinAmp, iTunes, Quicktime, RealPlayer, or any streaming MP3 player. Additionally the stream may be heard on most mobile devices such as the iPhone or Android based phones. The station is also listed in the classical radio stations on iTunes.

A new website makes it easier to search the the ever-growing library of organ music, which currently holds over 10,000 tracks from more than 850 albums of music recorded by organists all over the world. Listeners can log in to rate tracks and albums as well as leave comments on the same. Organlive plays albums recorded on pipe, digital, and combination organs played by the world's best concert organists, as well as tracks recorded and submitted by less renowned organists. Included are pairings of organ and orchestra, solo instruments, choir, or vocal solos. The listener is presented with the work title, composer, album title, a link to purchase the album or MP3 online, the organ, it's builder, size, and location, and a link to the specification of the organ being heard, and often a link to public domain copy of the sheet music of the work.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday Advent Organ Recitals on December 3, 10 and 17 from 12:15 to 12:45 at First United Methodist Church. Julia Brown, organist. Free admission.

Sunday, Dec. 12, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m. - **Brother Heinrich's Christmas**. Larry Sutton narrator with the Central Chorale. Central Lutheran Church, 18th Ave and Potter Streets.

December 15, 12 noon - Christopher Wicks will play **Olivier Messiaen's** complete cycle **La Nativite du Seigneur (The Birth of the Lord)** on the Estey/Balcom and Vaughan organ at First Christian Church at 685 Marion St. NE, in Salem, OR. Free and open to the public.

December 18, 7 pm - **Charpentier's Messe de Minuit and Noels pour les Instruments** presented by the UUCE Chamber Singers directed by Tom Sears. Unitarian Universalist Church, 377 East 40th Street. Suggested donation, \$5.

December 19, 3 pm - **Charpentier's Messe de Minuit and Noels pour les Instruments** presented by the UUCE Chamber Singers directed by Tom Sears. First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street.

December 19, at 3 p.m. Christopher Wicks will repeat his concert of **Olivier Messiaen's** complete cycle **La Nativite du Seigneur (The Birth of the Lord)** on the Martin Ott organ at the Mt. Angel Abbey Church in Mount Angel, Oregon.

We are happy to list your events, send by e-mail to our newsletter editor, Richard Guy, at rickspro@value.net

PLAN AHEAD FOR NEXT SUMMER

Region VIII Convention will be held in Boise, ID, July 3-7, 2011. For recitalists, workshop presenters, daily schedules and registration information please check their website:
<http://convention.agoboise.org/>

The Portland Chapter is hosting a **Pipe Organ Encounter**, July 10-14, 2011. Please encourage young organ and piano students to attend this POE. More information can be found at:
<http://www.portlandago.org/poe/index.html>.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Announcements, articles or any news of interest should be sent to rickspro@value.net by the last Tuesday of each month. Deadline for the next newsletter is December 28.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please note – if you have not yet renewed your membership, the November issue of *The American Organist* will be your final copy. To renew, you can download a registration form on our website: www.agoeugene.org

PETTY OPUS 4 PIPE ORGAN - DURING CONSTRUCTION



Our thanks to David Petty for these fine pictures showing stages of construction. Additional photos taken during construction can be seen on his website at: www.davidpettyorgans.com — Click on Project Gallery, and then on Opus 4.



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