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### Eugene Chapter Website

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### AGO National Headquarters

www.agoHQ.org

## LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN

Dear colleagues and friends,

A big thank you goes to the past leadership who served in various capacities. Richard Guy wore many hats along with producing terrific newsletters and developing an informative website for the Eugene Chapter. Harold Hockman kept the monies safe-guarded serving many terms as member-at-large and treasurer. Martha Lawrence hosted the ultimate annual September members' potlucks. Barbara Baird and Julia Brown shared their gifts of performance and membership in so many ways.

You will read about **ONCARD** in *The American Organist*. Gail Goshert is our Chapter Administrator for ONCARD. She will receive updates and information from National helping to prepare the Chapter to join next year. Membership is open throughout the year. Forms will be available at events.

**Deborah Marshall** will be collecting **used organ music** during the year. If you have music you're no longer using please donate it, as it could be someone else's delight. The used collection will be available to interested organists at Chapter events. To donate, please phone Deborah – 541-521-1637.

**Martha Lawrence** will host the **members' potluck** at her home, 2405 Terrace View Drive, Eugene, September 29, 6:00 p.m. This is a wonderful way for members to get together, have fun and share ideas. Please bring whatever dish of food you want. It will be a delicious feast! If you have organ music to donate, do bring it along to Deborah.

**Please let us know if you can be more involved.** Help is always needed to hand out programs and membership brochures, collect donations, sell cards, and act as greeters. Share your thoughts by writing for the 'Musings' column in the newsletter. Jane will be waiting for your call or email!

Events for the year were planned with **young organists** as the focus. Let's give them our best support.

See you at the potluck.

— Jane Knobel, Dean



## THE NEW ORGANIST

Training pianists to play the organ for church services has long been a goal in the Eugene AGO Chapter. Barbara Baird led a class last year. This autumn **Barbara Baird** and **Julia Brown** have graciously agreed to lead **three Saturday classes, 1:00-4:00 PM:**

**October 4** - United Lutheran Church,  
2230 Washington Street, Eugene

**October 25** - First Church of Christ,  
Scientist, 1176 Centennial Blvd.,  
Springfield

**November 22** - First United Methodist  
Church, 1376 Olive Street,  
Eugene

Your assistance is needed to advertise these classes by posting the attached flyer on prominent information bulletin boards as well as reaching out to pianists, pastors, and directors of music.

For more information contact:

Deborah Marshall (541) 521-1637  
or Karen Williamson (541) 337-2033.

## HARD COPY OR BY E-MAIL

This monthly newsletter is published in both printed, hard copy and also distributed on the internet via pdf files. AGO Chapter members may receive in either format, or both. Please let us know your preference. Please notify Jane Knobel.

# A BRIEF SKETCH OF ORGAN HISTORY IN ONE SUPERFICIAL LESSON

Although I was a performance major through my doctoral degree, I have always loved music history, and I might have been a better musicologist than I ever was an organist, only average at that but with lots of lucky breaks. I've been fascinated with the organ's history from day one.

When someone comes up to me after church, or anywhere else for that matter, asking about organs, the first thing I say is that organs go back to the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C., are the oldest keyboard instrument and one of the most historic of ALL instruments. Responses vary from stunned disbelief, to "Wow, tell me more!" I talk about Ktesibios' hydraulis, Nero's seven organs and that early Christians were likely thrown to the lions to the sound of the hydraulis, a very loud outdoor pipe organ. Most of what we know about the hydraulis comes from documents, from mosaics of gladiatorial combat and from murals. One historian theorizes that Mrs. Ktesibios was the first organist! And women have been many of our finest organists since.

Another fact that I find fascinating about the organ's history is that its basic components—air under pressure with keys controlling air into pipes—were invented at a specific time. Other musical instruments today have evolved over time from predecessors.

Also fascinating is that the history of the organ reflects the history of Western culture. The pagan hydraulis gave way to small portatives used in Christian processions and to teach plainsong to monks and nuns throughout the Middle Ages. Over time, organs grew in size and complexity, but "full organ" was the only option; all the ranks played at once. At some point some clever fellow had the idea of stopping air from various sets of pipes, so that organists could have a palette of colors from which to choose, thus the term "stop" for what we think of as "go"! The art of registration was born. Organs were prized gifts between the ruling classes, often decorated with gold, silver, ivory, jewels and other precious things.

Pre-Reformation organs were used for a closed culture of clergy and choir, not for congregational singing. They also decorated worship with organ solos in alternation with choirs. Often there was a larger organ in the back of the church and a small positiv organ up front. Another clever fellow got the idea of combining the two, hung the positiv on the organ loft, combined the action and VOILA the two manual organ was born, with "Ruckpositiv", literally "positiv to my back", but still there was no independent pedal division.

The Reformation brought a demand for large enough organs to carry congregational song. Thus we arrived at the fantastic era of baroque organ building with which most organists today are familiar, multiple divisions with pedal obligato, lavish cases, etc.

Those countries that remained predominantly Roman Catholic (Italy, Austria, Southern Germany, Spain, Portugal, France, Central and Eastern Europe, Central and South America) continued to use mostly small one-manual instruments. There are some notable exceptions, especially in France, Southern Germany, Catalonia and Majorca.

Also fascinating is how organ design somewhat reflects the climates and languages that gave rise to them. Italian, the "singing" language, is reflected in ancient Italian organs which "sing" with a wonderful kind of exquisite beauty. Spanish organs are fiery red as heard in the horizontal *Trompetas*, much like the climate. French organs are nasal and full of color. In Protestant Northern Europe the crisp, cold climate and guttural speech can be heard in the organs. Sorry. There's no space here for the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20 centuries, another huge chapter!

We organists need to treasure our history and feel so very blessed to be part of it. Go, read, listen and ENJOY! *Deo gracias.*

– Bob Thompson, August, 2014.

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## GREETING CARDS FOR SALE

Eugene resident and author, Mary Sharon Moore gives workshops on spirituality to Catholic Churches throughout the United States. She has graciously given permission for the Eugene AGO chapter to use her photos to launch a 'Cards for Sale' project. Pictures of the local pipe organs will also be used. Richard Guy is producing these cards. AGO volunteers will be needed to sell the cards at AGO events. Hands up! Please let Richard Guy or Jane Knobel know if you would like to help.

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## WITH HEART AND VOICE

*With Heart and Voice* is a radio program that spans the full range of Western classical music from the Gothic period through the 21st. Century. There are occasional surprises from the non-western tradition. The program is hosted by Peter DuBois, an active organist who teaches at the Eastman School of Music.

This program originates from Rochester, New York, and is broadcast Sundays, 11 am and 7 pm on KWAX-FM.



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, the Associate Organist of

St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle. The Organ Loft features music of Pacific Northwest choirs, organs, composers and organ builders. The programming is half organ, and half choral music.

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) on Sundays at 8 AM and 6 PM.

Eugene, 91.1 KWAX-FM      Redmond, 88.5 KWRX-FM  
Florence, 91.5 KWVZ-FM      Canyonville, 92.3 KWRZ-FM

and on these translators:

Bend 98.9      Cottage Grove 101.9      Salem 92.9  
Newport 91.3      Reedsport 90.9      Roseburg 105.3  
Sunriver 90.9      Sutherlin-Oakland 107.1

# AGO EUGENE CHAPTER

## 2014-2015 Schedule

- Monday, September 29 - 6 p.m.  
Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting,  
Home of Martha Lawrence  
2405 Terraceview Drive - Eugene
- Saturday, October 4 - 1 to 4 p.m.  
New Organist Workshop #1  
United Lutheran Church  
2230 Washington Street - Eugene
- Saturday, October 25 - 1 to 4 p.m.  
New Organist Workshop #2  
Christian Science Church  
1176 Centennial Blvd. - Springfield
- Sunday, October 26 - 4 p.m..  
"PipeScreams" - Member recital and Fundraiser  
For *The Organ Loft*  
Central Presbyterian Church  
555 East 15th. Street - Eugene
- Friday, November 21 - 7 p.m.  
Concert of the Cosmos  
Presented by AGO Chapter members  
First United Methodist Church  
1376 Olive Street - Eugene
- Saturday, November 22 - 1 to 4 p.m.  
New Organist Workshop #3  
First United Methodist Church  
1376 Olive Street - Eugene
- Sunday, January 25 - 10 a.m.  
"King of Instruments" Concert  
Introduction to the workings of the pipe organ.  
Concert presentation by AGO members.  
Location to be announced.
- Sunday, February 15 - 4 p.m.  
European Organs Travelogue  
Presented by U of O Organ Students  
First Congregational Church  
1050 East 23rd. Street - Eugene
- Saturday, April 25 - 3 p.m.  
Young Organists Concert  
First United Methodist Church  
11765 NW Monroe - Corvallis
- Friday, May 1 - time t. b. a.  
Olivier Latry, Organ Concert  
Central Lutheran Church  
1857 Potter St. - Eugene
- Monday, June 1 - 6 p.m.  
End of year Potluck and election of officers  
At the home of Jane Knobel.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

- Thursday - September 18 - 8:00 PM  
**Blue Danube and Brahms.** The Eugene Symphony performs with Danail Rachev conducting. Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center, Eugene.
- Sunday - September 28 - 7:30 PM  
**Itzhak Perlman,** performs **Beethoven** Violin Concerto with the Eugene Symphony performs with Danail Rachev conducting. Silva Concert Hall, Hult Center, Eugene.
- Sunday - October 5 - 4:00 PM  
**Cascadia Concert Opera** - performs Beethoven's only opera Fidelio, in English, with chorus and orchestra at First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street, Eugene. Free, donations accepted.
- Sunday - October 12 - 3:00 PM  
**Emerson String Quartet** Chamber music at Beall Concert Hall, School of Music, U of O. Program includes works by Beethoven, Britten and Shostakovich.
- Friday - November 7 - 7:30 PM  
**Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble** presents the Vivaldi Gloria. Beall Concert Hall, School of Music, U of O.

**Events Calendar** - Please send us information on your concerts so we can include in our newsletters. We love to support each other's concerts by helping to get the news out and by being at your programs. Let us know!

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### NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Announcements, articles or any news of interest should be sent to [janeknobel@gmail.com](mailto:janeknobel@gmail.com). The deadline for the next newsletter is October 24.

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### FOR SALE

#### Zuckermann Flemish Harpsichord



Offered at \$5000.

Assembled by the owner in the late 1970's, this lovely instrument was recently appraised at the sale price by Andrew Lagerquist of Early Keyboards in Springfield. He describes it as "disposed 2x8",

buff stop, with a range BB-d, white naturals, black sharps. In excellent condition: structurally, cosmetically and mechanically." To view the instrument, or for more information, please contact Les Breidenthal at (541) 505-9756.

# 6 Year old starts Fund-Raising Campaign for Whitespires Organ



Peter Scheessele, 6, of Corvallis, foreground, prepares a cup of lemonade and a brownie for neighbor Elena Ringo, 8, at his stand along Northwest Hayes Drive on Friday afternoon. (Amanda Cowan | Corvallis Gazette-Times)

*This picture and story, first published on August 18, in the Corvallis Gazette-Times, has been picked up and widely disseminated on Facebook Organists page, and now our national AGO is sending it out as well. The story has been picked up and carried on local Eugene TV stations as well. Peter is the youngest member of the Eugene Chapter.*

It is 3 p.m. on a quiet Friday afternoon, but Peter Scheessele is hard at work, putting on his sixth fundraising event of the summer.

Peter, 6, assisted by 4-year-old brother Simon, is raising money to help restore an organ at an Albany church.

The boys are selling lemonade and brownies this day (they also have sold ice cream sandwiches). Neighbors drop by, the occasional motorist stops after seeing the signs on Northwest Witham Hill Drive, and the cash keeps piling up in the till.

Peter and Simon will finish the day with more than \$50 in proceeds, bringing their total for the six lemonade sales to more than \$300. "I'm raising money for the Whitespire organ," said Peter. "We make the lemonade and brownies and buy the ice cream sandwiches." The Whitespire organ, a 1906 Kimball, is lodged at the Berean Fellowship on Southwest Fifth Avenue in Albany. It needs nearly \$100,000 in repairs. Church leaders started with a \$60,000 donation in February 2013 from the estate of Vira Lemons, but they still need to raise the other \$40,000.

According to his mother, Erin, when Peter heard about the Whitespire campaign he said, "I could do a lemonade stand for Whitespire." Three carloads of Berean Fellowship members drove from Albany to Corvallis two weeks ago to patronize Peter and Simon's stand, and elder Gene Harness said the church appreciates the efforts of the young entrepreneurs. Peter first saw the Whitespire organ in an April 2012 visit as part of an organ crawl organized by the Eugene chapter of the American Guild of Organists. "He's been fascinated by organs since the age of 2 at the Congregational Church," Erin said. "Even as a 2-year-old, he could see how your foot on the pedals produced an effect. "He has a mechanical fascination and a musical inclination." "I just like organs," said Peter, who can't yet reach an organ's pedals. "That's why I'm raising the money."

Donations to the organ fund can be sent to Whitespires Berean Fellowship, Post Office Box 671, Albany OR 97321