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LETTER FROM YOUR DEAN

Dear colleagues and friends,

The September Potluck signals the beginning of the AGO Program Year. With a full schedule for the upcoming months, you're invited to please participate whenever possible whether on stage or behind the scenes. Email or call any Board member to say where you would like to help: writing for the newsletter, publicity, transportation, handing out programs or setting up at events. Let's turn indifference into generosity. It would be fun to see you from time to time.

Grateful thanks go to each of you for renewing your membership via ONCARD. It's gone very well. If it was a bit confusing, know that it has made the process so much easier at the local level and next year it should be more familiar.

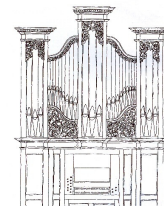
We look forward to the **Cosmic Concert**, November 8th, a fundraiser being organized by **Craig Hansen at FUMC, Corvallis**. Craig has worked tirelessly in raising funds for the renovation of the Noack instrument. Don't hesitate to let him know if you'd like to play for the concert.

PipeScreams is just around the corner. Pull out your costumes and volunteer to make this wacky event another great success. What a grand opportunity it is to play the beautiful Hochhalter instrument. It's our biggest moneymaker of the year as led by Ghoulish Goblins Baird and Brown.

Thanks are extended to Karen Williamson who has held the reins, while I've been at our home in Wiltshire, England. If you can plan to be in England for the Edington Music Festival which has been held for 60 years the last week of August in a beautiful Wiltshire priory church dating back to the 11th century, you'll hear authentic historical (and some modern) sacred music at its finest. This unique week is a festival of music within the liturgy sung by singers from the finest Cathedrals and collegiate choirs in the land. The new Harrison and Harrison two-manual organ funded by an American living in the village adds to the richness of the week. The festival is a huge celebration of English sacred music held a few miles from the Knobel home.

If I were not a physicist, I would probably be a musician. I often think of music. I live my day-dreams in music. I see my life in terms of music.
Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

Jane Knobel, Dean



PIPESCREAMS

PipeScreams is coming, and already we're beginning to get inquiries about what we'll be doing this year. It will be at First Congregational Church in Eugene on Saturday, 6 pm on Oct. 24.

Now's the time to dig out your spooky music, practice all those pedal lines, find your scariest Halloween costume, and prepare to perform for our most appreciative audience. This fun concert raises enough money to keep The Organ Loft on the air for another year, but we also expose music lovers in our community to the excitement of dynamic organ music.

So polish up your organ shoes, get the dust out of the sequins, rummage through your music, and come up with something whacky, ridiculous, scary or outrageous to play on Saturday, October 24th at 6 pm. Barbara and Julia are organizing the concert, so please contact one of them as soon as possible with the title, composer & length of the piece you intend to play. For organ practice times, contact Barbara Baird.

We can also use the help of volunteers to help at the concert with ushering, and passing the pumpkins for donations. Contact Julia or Barbara to help. And, finally, be sure to invite all your family and friends to this fun event.

COSMIC CONCERT FUNDRAISER

Craig Hanson, organist at First United Methodist Church in Corvallis, has announced a Cosmic Concert to take place on November 15, at 7 pm in his church.

Craig is looking for organists from Corvallis, Eugene and Salem who are willing to participate in this concert of music of the cosmos. The concert will be a fundraiser for repairs on their Noack tracker organ.

If you are interested in participating in the Cosmic FundRaising Concert, you can contact Craig at (541) 908 - 4477 or by e-mail at: pipe_organist@mac.com

MARLA LOWEN RETIRES

Marla Lowen was on the planning committee of the 2001 AGO Regional Convention, and then was Dean of the Eugene AGO Chapter from 2008 - 2010, also serving on the Special Projects Advisory Committee since it's inception, following our Regional Convention.

When Betty Jean Bartholomew, the founding chair of SPAC, died, Marla graciously stepped in to fill the rather large shoes of Betty Jean. Marla seamlessly took over this duty, leading us through a POE, APO+, and then the Organ / Harpsichord Institute. These committee meetings were a joy to attend, not only because Marla so beautifully organized and ran them with skill and efficiency, but also because she provided lunch for the committee.

Her culinary skills are equal to her organizational skills. One of the visions of SPAC was to use the money, which the chapter earned by hosting the Regional Convention, to support the outreach and educational endeavors of the AGO. SPAC has made these funds go far, providing scholarship monies, funding special projects, and working with the Oregon Bach Festival to bring high quality recitalists to Eugene.

Now that our SPAC monies are dwindling, Marla will be stepping down from the position as SPAC chair, and the remaining SPAC funds will be folded into the chapter accounts.

We have been richly blessed by Marla's leadership and wish her all the best, as she finds her life in retirement. She will also be stepping down from her position as Organist and Music Director at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Eugene, in February 2016.
— Barbara Baird

USED ORGAN MUSIC

The family of a deceased organist at the Bethesda Lutheran Church, Eugene, has donated her service music for organ to the Eugene Chapter. The collection is kept at Jane Knobel's home and will also be displayed at events. You're welcome to look through it and take what you want at any time. Phone Jane at (541) 683-0826.

We welcome any music you may want to donate throughout the year to the collection. Please take time to look through your music. Yes, we don't like to give it up, do we?

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.

NEW ORGANIST CLASSES

Dr. Barbara Baird and Dr. Julia Brown will lead *three New Organist classes* to give pianists and organists necessary skills to support church services with the organ. While we are hugely delighted pianists and new organists are filling the organ benches, the organ instructors would like share skills which are quite different than those of the piano.

The classes will be on Saturdays, April 9 and 23, and May 7, 2016. Please help AGO advertise these comprehensive, enjoyable, and very helpful classes.

Interested participants may contact Karen Williamson (541) 337-2044 or Jane Knobel (541) 683-0826 or you may let us know directly of those who are interested. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

PIPE DREAMS NOW ON KWAX-FM

Michael Barone, host of Pipe Dreams, has announced that his program will now be heard on KWAX on Sunday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m., right after The Organ Loft. While not the best time for us church organists, it is well to remember that the program can also be heard anytime streaming on the world-wide web. More details at: www.pipedreams.publicradio.org.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Announcements, articles or any news of interest to chapter members should be sent to rickspro@value.net. The deadline for the next newsletter is October 28.

ONCARD MEMBERSHIP

To join AGO / or pay dues: go to www.agohq.org/oncard See membership top left. Invite friends and colleagues to join as Members of the guild, or as Friends which is only \$37.00



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

2015-2016 Schedule

- Saturday, October 24 - 6 p.m..
"PipeScreams" - Chapter Member recital and
Fundraiser for *The Organ Loft*
First Congregational Church
1050 East 23rd. Street - Eugene
- Saturday, November 21 - 1 to 4 p.m.
Workshop and Master Class w/ Bruce Neswick
Presented for AGO Chapter members
Central Presbyterian Church
555 East 15th. Street - Eugene
- Friday, December 4 - 11 - 18 - Noon
Advent Organ & Instruments Meditations
First United Methodist Church
1376 Olive Street - Eugene
- Sunday, January 24 - 3 p.m.
"King of Instruments" Concert
Introduction to the workings of the pipe organ.
Concert presentation by AGO members.
Location to be announced.
- Saturday, February 13 - 20 - 27 - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 4 - 11 - 18 - 4:30 p.m.
Lenten Organ Meditations on the Brombaugh
Presented by Chapter Members & Guests
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
3925 Hilyard Street - Eugene
- Saturday, February 20 - 3:30 p.m.
Lecture Demonstration: "How to Tackle
Buxtehude as an Organist" by Julia Brown
Presented for Chapter Members & Guests
Episcopal Church of the Resurrection
- Saturday, April 9 - 4:30 p.m.
Barbara Baird in Concert on the Ahrend organ
Beall Hall - U of O School of Music
Eugene
- Friday, May 20 - time t. b. a.
Korean organists perform in concert
First United Methodist Church - Eugene
- Monday, June 6 - 6 p.m.
End of the year Meeting / Potluck / Election
Jane Knobel's estate - Eugene

NEW YEARBOOK / DIRECTORIES

Chapter staff is busy working on the 2015 - 2016 AGO Yearbook and Directory. PLEASE check your listing in last year's book, and if there are any changes to your address, telephone number, e-mail account, or church position, let us know right away: Call Richard Guy or Jane Knobel. We expect to be mailing the new directories out by mid-month.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

- Sunday - October 4 - 3 PM
Montrose Trio performs works by Haydn, Shostakovich and Mendelssohn. Beall Hall, U of O School of Music. Pre-concert talk at 2:10 pm in Room 163 of the UO Music Bldg.
- Sunday - October 4 - 7:30 pm
The Jazz Station: performances by UO faculty and students. Beall Concert Hall, U of O School of Music
- Wednesday - October 7 - 5:30 PM
Collegium Musicum: "*Musica Poetica*" U of O Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art
- Sunday - October 11 - 4 PM
Cascadia Concert Opera: Mozart's "*Don Giovanni*" sung in concert, in English. First United Methodist Church, Eugene. Free - Suggested Donation: \$10
- Thursday - October 15 - 8:00 PM
Miguel Harth-Bedoya returns to the Eugene Symphony to celebrate the 100th birthday of Argentine composer Alberto Ginastera. Pianist Vadym Kholodenko and the Zaraspe Dance Troupe are also on the program. Silva Concert Hall - Hult Center - Eugene.
- Thursday - October 22 - 7:30 PM
Liszt's Birthday Celebration. Six graduate pianists from the studio of Alexandre Dossin performing '*Transcendental Etudes.*' Beall Hall, U of O School of Music
- Friday - October 25 - 2:30 PM
Eugene Vocal Arts Ensemble presents the Haydn *St. Cecilia Mass* at Beall Hall, School of Music, U of O. Soloists are Claire Fedoruk, Sop.; Alyse Jamison, alto; John Coons, Ten.; and Andre Flynn, Bass. Diane Retallack leads the ensemble and their new Eugene Concert Orchestra.
- Sunday, November 15 - 7 p.m.
Cosmic Concert by AGO members. Fundraiser for the Noack Organ Maintenance. First United Methodist Church, 1165 NW Monroe Avenue - Corvallis
- 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!

ORGANIST POSITION OPENINGS

St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Eugene has announced that they are seeking a New Organist / Music Director. This is a 1/2 time position, 12 months. There are 3 Sunday services, at 8, 9:30 and 11 am, and choir rehearsal on Wednesday nights. The position has sick leave, and 5 Sundays Paid Vacation, and a program for continuing education.

Details and Application requirements online at church website: www.saint-marys.org

The church has an 11 rank, 2 manual Austin pipe organ that was installed in 1958, and upgraded / reworked about 8 years ago. Their organist, Marla Lowen, well known to Eugene Chapter members, is retiring in February.

Primitive Music in the Pre-Christian Period

Since the earliest ancient recordings in the Old Testament, it is known that music was a significant part of Judaism. The strong influence of Judaism upon the first Christians with regard to worship, the use of instruments, singing, hymns, and psalms gave ancient music its initial foundation which expanded throughout music history within Christianity.



Relatively little is known about pre-Christian music other than biblical accounts which often are vague. Many surveys of early church music rarely give much thought to the time before Constantine (c. CE 274-337) with existing studies often symbolic and uncertain. The theological expression of music in the Bible was indirect. The greatest focus of reference to both vocal and instrumental music is found in the Psalter in Psalms 23,33; 40:3; 96:1; 8:1; 144,9; and 150. The psalms were an important part of worship in the temples and synagogues which led to their continued use in Christianity throughout the ages.

Documenting early musical practices was not important to the early Hebrews. Modern scholarly research has been able to piece together accounts illustrating the utilitarian purpose of ancient music that was usually connected to important life experiences such as birth, puberty, death, and religion. Bedouin shouts at special occasions were probably the first tribal sounds to be noted in biblical passages. Early Old Testament research has shown that it is almost certain an indigenous musical style had an important function in pre-Christian times.

From the earliest era, music was essential to the Hebrews who were an emotional people. It was spontaneous, improvisatory, and informal, as it served functional rather than artistic needs. As with many early cultures, it seemed to be a part of all Jewish life, including war. The earliest Jewish festivals were agricultural and nomadic with music in the form of cantillation and dancing. Flamboyant vocal and instrumental music for great social events was a prominent part of Jewish life. Music was an integral part of ancient Hebrew life in a form far different from today.

The origins of the Passover began with a primeval celebration where a lamb was killed. It was thought that the blood had magical qualities. The rite of “unleavened blood” originally was an agricultural festival. In this instance “unleavened” would mean an event of transformation for the better. The two events were combined creating the Jewish Passover which then became an important part of temple worship. When music was a part of nature it took on magical meaning. Later, when the festivals started to relate to God, music became narratives of God’s actions.

* An excerpt from the Master’s Thesis of Jane Knobel:
The Construction of a Curricular Guide to the Historical Investigation of Sacred Music

* November segment: ANCIENT SACRED MUSIC IN AN AUDITORY SETTING