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CONTENTS

2	UPDATE			
\mathcal{J}	Cincinnati	Organ	Book	Project

	NOTABLE CHURCH
	BUILDINGS IN PITTSBURGH
)	by Charles Huddleston Heaton

10	WHO WAS HENRY NEERING?
10	by Barbara Owen

PITTSBURGH: THE RENAISSANCE CITY OHS National Convention 2010 by James Stark

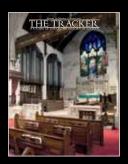
/ DEVIEWS	Q		′
EVIEWS	O REVIEWS	40	_

	ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL,
22	DENVER
$\mathcal{I}\mathcal{I}$	DENVER by Michael Friesen

34	DONORS & GIFTS
94	2008–2009

40	OUR NEW MEMBERS
†U	2008–2009

4	1	OBITUARY		
+,		Sally	Slade	Warner



ON THE COVER

The 1913 E.M. Skinner organ in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Pittsburgh. This instrument will be featured during the OHS 2010 Convention.

PHOTOGRAPH by LEN LEVASSEUR

CINCINATTI ORGAN BOOK PROJECT





HAVING THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE PUBLICATIONS THAT OHS HAS SPONSORED and published over the years. I have made every effort to make sure that I have copies in my personal collection and in the collection that I developed at the University of Georgia libraries. The arrival of the commemorative book on the Cincinnati Music Hall organ brought back many memories for me. Somewhere at home I believe that I might have a rather poor quality recording of Wayne Fisher playing an abridged version of the Liszt "Ad nos" on the instrument as rebuilt by Austin.

I would like to give you my first-hand account of the removal of the Cincinnati Music Hall organ during my undergraduate days as an organ performance major at the College-Conservatory of Music. The removal occurred during the summer of 1970 or 1971. The entire reason for the removal of the organ was to provide more stage area to accommodate the relocation of the Cincinnati Summer Opera series into the hall from its outdoor location at the Cincinnati Zoo. My most vivid memory of the removal was that it took place during an especially hot and humid few days in the summer and that we were all sucking tons of black soot up our noses and into our lungs—who knew about respirators or surgical masks, and OSHA back then? We were just young and enthusiastic!

During my early years at CCM, I became good friends with Bud Clark. Bud was director of music for Old St. Mary's Church, 13th and Clay Streets, in downtown Cincinnati, which had a late 1920s-vintage Austin of three manuals. When the Music Hall authorities decided it was time to undertake massive renovations of their stage to accommodate opera productions it was decided that the organ had to go! To the best of my recollection, the organ was to be thrown into the dumpster unless someone volunteered to come in and remove it. As you know, the original Hook and Hastings instrument was rebuilt by Austin in 1923. It turned out that St. Mary's Austin and the Music Hall Austin had the same wind pressures. This is where Bud and his merry band of volunteers comes into the picture: Bud Clark, William Coscarelli, Robert Love, Michael Mantz, Ron McCarty, and possibly others.

Bud corralled all his friends into helping him pull and pack pipes into pipe trays and transport them to Old St. Mary's for future incorporation into their "vintage" instrument. Most of what we removed that summer was metal flue work including principal choruses with nearly all the mixtures. We were able to salvage only one of the "lesser" reeds, the 8' Bassoon.

update continued

Bud believes that all the other reeds had been removed by a theater organ group from Toledo, Ohio. I do not remember packing up much in the way of wooden pipes either. I will say that we were all very distressed to see the 32' Open Wood remain, only to be cut up and discarded. It was a very sad rank with numerous splits along the length of several pipes that had been repaired by nailing slats of wood across the gaps—I gather to stop the splits enlarging. A number of the pipes had already been cut up into pipe trays. The largest of the pipes, the remaining casework, and the Austin Universal Windchests were to be left in place and discarded. The Open Woods were left in place as the opening at the rear of the stage through which they originally came had been closed up and there was no way to lower them to take them out though the proscenium arch without the removal of the chest and casework—very sad indeed.

Tom Cunningham, a local organ builder in Cincinnati at the time, reinstalled the 8' Bassoon in Old St. Mary's and it was used in a Christmas Day performance of the Gounod St. Cecilia Mass where master's student and regular chorister/soloist Kathleen Battle was soprano soloist. I have a recording of this mass that is fabulous—noises of the congregation not withstanding.

I have corresponded with Bud who now resides in San Diego, California, to see if he knew of what has happened to any of the pipework that we moved all those years ago. He indicated that the principal chorus had been stored in the church bell tower. No one seems to know the current state of any of the surviving material. He has not had any response to his e-mails from anyone at the church.

The beautiful panels from the original case are still visible in the orchestra pit when it is lowered. Now we can all rejoice that they thrill audiences with the sound of an appliance! To be fair, there really is no place in this beautiful facility to place a pipe organ. Once the proscenium went into place, the instrument was totally compromised, and no instrument would ever be successful in such a situation. I have to say that Springer Auditorium in Music Hall is one of the most

fabulous rooms in the country. I have heard many marvelous symphony concerts, watched incredible opera performances, and, yes, wished for the sounds of an equally fabulous pipe organ on occasions one was called for. However, I would never wish for the stunning appearance of the room to be compromised either. On a brighter, maybe lighter, note, while surfing the Web for some information on Music Hall, I came across a notice that the Wurlitzer organ originally installed in the RKO Albee theater will soon be installed in the ballroom of Music Hall. So, a pipe organ will return to Music Hall once more! For more information, please see the Society for the Preservation of Music Hall Web site at:

www.soc-pres-music-hall.com

I thought it might be of interest to sum up the ending of this once-great instrument with a personal account of its removal and the vacancy it creates in the musical fabric of Music Hall.

William F Coscarelli

Head of Music Collections

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The American Musical Instrument Society

AMIS announces a new publication: *The New-York Book of Prices for Manufacturing Piano-fortes* by the Society of Journeymen Piano-forte Makers.

In his foreword, Henry Z. Steinway writes

The 1835 Price Book of New York's Society of Journeymen Pianoforte Makers, known from only one surviving copy, gives uniquely detailed insight to the craft To put the Price Book into a broad social perspective, Laurence Libin provides a panoramic but sharply-focused snapshot of life, work, and culture in New York about 1835.



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Special features include appendices listing New York musicians and musical instrument makers from Longworth's American Almanac for 1835, and Lynn Edwards Butler's translation of the Well-Meant Advice . . . to Germans who intend to immigrate to the United States, a rare cautionary booklet issued in 1833 by the German Society of New York. With index and errata, the New-York Book of Prices will interest labor and music historians, woodworkers, piano technicians, instrument makers and furniture collectors, and everyone interested in antebellum American culture. (paperbound)

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CORRECTION: On page 10 of the Fall 2009 issue, Frank Roosevelt's organ for the Allegheny Free Library was his Opus 450 (not Opus 79, which was Hilborne Roosevelt's instrument of 1881 for Most Holy Name R.C. Church in Allegheny).

Updated OHS Bylaws posted on Web site

NEWLY UPDATED AND RESTATED BYLAWS OF THE ORGAN HIStorical Society are now available for reference on the Society's Web site, www.organsociety.org. These bylaws reflect the amendments recently approved by the membership and are complete as of October 18, 2009.

OHS Legacy Society Update

THE OHS Legacy Society WAS FORMED TO HONOR MEMBERS who have included the OHS in their wills or other estate plans. By designating the Organ Historical Society as a beneficiary of a will, life insurance policy, or retirement plan investment, the people listed below have shown their loyalty to, and generous support of, the Organ Historical Society. Charter membership in the OHS Legacy Society was still growing as this issue of The Tracker was put together.

The charter members include both deceased members whose past bequests have provided significant financial support of the Society and living members who have committed a part of what they will leave in their estates to support the OHS. We are extremely grateful to these generous OHS members for their vision and confidence in the future of the Society.

Please consider this valuable means of supporting the OHS, and if you have already added the OHS to your will, please let us know so that we can add you as a member of the OHS Legacy Society.

Contact us at info@organsociety.org.

Charter Members of the OHS Legacy Society

UPDATED NOVEMBER 2009

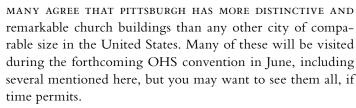
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Notable Church Buildings in Pittsburgh

CHARLES HUDDLESTON HEATON



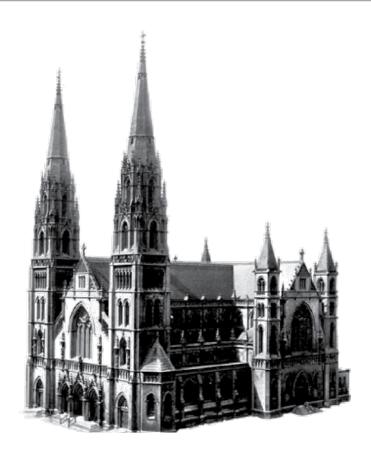
Pittsburgh is fortunate to have three church buildings designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH 315 SHADY AVENUE

This is the earliest Cram church, 1907, designed on the traditional cruciform plan. The outside walls are primarily of smooth stone with little ornamentation. In his 1936 book, *My Life in Architecture*, Cram wrote, "The central tower I look upon with a certain satisfaction . . ." and further indicates that the church early on showed "my Anglican predisposition."

The striking spire, supported internally by latticed steel framework, is crowned with a brass cross that James H. McIlvaine, the rector at the time, helped to install by climbing the outside scaffolding.

The 1963 Casavant organ was renovated and enlarged by Casavant in 1991 to its present 137 ranks.



St. Paul R.C. Cathedral

HOLY ROSARY R.C. CHURCH 7120 KELLY STREET

Cram wrote of this beautiful building, the "church had to have a very large seating capacity, the building area was not large, and available funds were even smaller." The interior shows the Catalonian influence of widely spaced columns with side aisles almost as high as the nave. Despite its less than ideal location today, the church seems to be very well maintained and used.

The Casavant organ, its original nameplate unfortunately missing, undoubtedly dates from the early days of construction, between 1928 and 1930. A three-manual organ of about 35 ranks, it has a lovely sound in the building. The console is original, with the typical metal Casavant swell pedals and dials for the crescendo pedal and blower.

EAST LIBERTY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 116 SOUTH HIGHLAND AVENUE

Cram waxes poetic in discussing of his last great building in Pittsburgh: "This was one of those opportunities that come no more than once in a lifetime . . . a church of cathedral size and general design. [It] is the sort of thing an architect sees in





Holy Rosary R.C. Church



Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church



Sacred Heart R.C. Church

his dreams but hardly hopes for in realization." The complex contains over 100 rooms, including a gymnasium and bowling alleys.

The nave seating capacity is over 1,200 and the great central tower rises 300 feet. During my 21-year tenure as organist-director (1972–1993), we increased the size of the magnificent Aeolian-Skinner from 108 ranks to 129. Additions were mostly upper work, a hooded Trumpet in the chancel center arches, and an en-chamade reed in the rear.

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH 5801 HAMPTON STREET

Dating from 1837, this is the second-oldest Episcopal congregation in Pittsburgh, having been an offshoot of downtown Trinity Church, now the cathedral. The present building, a Gothic Revival creation by the local firm of Carpenter and Crocker, was first used for a service on Easter of 1906. The building is replete with beautiful stained glass windows, and clearly resembles an English parish church.

In 1913, E.M. Skinner installed his Opus 202 instrument. It was rebuilt and expanded in 1992 with a new four-manual console, and now contains about 3,500 pipes in some 61 ranks, including two 32' stops. Peter J. Luley, who did the work, is also organist-choirmaster of St. Andrew's.

THIRD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 5701 FIFTH AVENUE AT S. NEGLEY

This congregation also migrated eastward from downtown; it dates from 1833. The present building was completed in 1903 and is the creation of architect Theophilus Chandler. The style is said to be classic French Gothic and boasts magnificent woodwork and stained glass. The pews are all numbered, reminiscent of the time when pews were "rented" to church members. Third Church abolished the practice in early 1948.

The front balcony still has an imposing case from a 1935 Aeolian-Skinner (or possibly an earlier organ), said to have been moved to a school in Lincoln, Illinois. The present instrument in the rear gallery is a 1965 Möller organ of some 110 ranks. Because of the relocation of the choir, the console has been moved to the front.

SACRED HEART R.C. CHURCH 310 SHADY AVENUE

Across the street from Calvary Episcopal Church sits the massive and elegant Sacred Heart Church, under construction from 1924 until 1953. The original architects were C. Strong, Kaiser, Neal and Reid. The height of the building from the auditorium floor is 158 feet, with a nave seating capacity of some 1,500 persons. Three large bells in the tower were cast by Gillett & Johnston of Croydon, England. They range in weight from 1,680 to 8,400 pounds.

The main organ is Ernest Skinner's Opus 885, dating from 1931. Aeolian-Skinner added the Narthex organ in 1958 that brought the total number of ranks to 57.

SHADYSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 5121 WESTMINSTER PLACE

Shadyside Presbyterian is not on the convention schedule, but is one of the city's magnificent buildings. Constructed in 1889 in the Richardsonian style by local architects Shepley, Rutan & Coolidge, it has had additions (chapel and parish hall) through the years. Above a central marble Communion table is a glorious mosaic of Jesus Christ by Rudolf Sheffler.

The former Möller organ has been enlarged and renovated by the Reuter Organ Company. There is a movable four-manual console in the front with a two-manual console in the rear gallery.

ST. PAUL R.C. CATHEDRAL FIFTH AVENUE AT CRAIG STREET

Well known among organ buffs because of the early (1962) mechanical action organ by Rudolf von Beckerath, this imposing building, with superb acoustics, is well worth visiting. Constructed 1903–1906 from plans of the firm of Egan & Prindeville, it contains over one hundred stained glass windows. The building was cleaned and restored in 2006. The 96-rank von Beckerath organ, dedicated in 1962, has likewise undergone extensive restoration by Taylor and Boody, and was rededicated with recitals during 2009. The cathedral is in the Oakland section, close to the University of Pittsburgh.

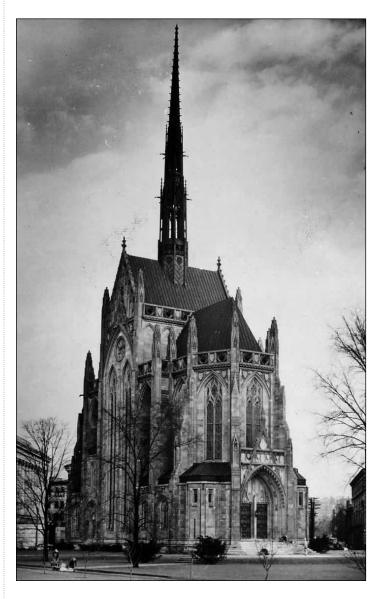
HEINZ MEMORIAL CHAPEL UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

The chapel is located a short distance east on Fifth Avenue from St. Paul Cathedral. It was built between 1934 and 1938 from the plans of architect Charles Z. Klauder. All wrought iron work was by the famed Philadelphia artisan, Samuel Yellin. The 23 tall stained glass windows are the work of Charles J. Connick of Boston. The transept windows are 73 feet tall! Heinz Chapel, being a university chapel, is host to over 1,500 events each year, including a number of organ recitals. The 73-rank Reuter organ is the firm's Opus 2176. The three-manual console is movable to the center of the chancel.

There are many other notable church buildings in the Pittsburgh area. Near downtown is the Church of the Epiphany, and in the city center are the side-by-side First Presbyterian Church and Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. In the southern suburb of Mt. Lebanon is the beautiful St. Bernard's Catholic Church. We hope that while you are in Pittsburgh, you find time to visit them all!



Shadyside Presbyterian Church



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Who was Henry Neering?

BARBARA OWEN

ACCORDING TO THE RECORDS OF TRINITY CHURCH IN NEW York City, in 1703 the vestry was appointed "to confer with and discourse Mr. Henry Neering, Organ-maker, about making and erecting an Organ in Trinity Church in New York, and if they shall think meet to agree with him on as easy terms as possible." It is evident that nothing came of this, for in 1709 the vestrymen wrote to England that "There is much more wanted, viz. A dwelling house for our Minister and a Vestry Room, with a ring of bells and a sett of Organs." In 1727 Governor Burnet gave a small organ—possibly only a chamber organ—to the South Dutch Reformed Church, but it was not until 1741 that Trinity Church finally acquired an organ, a good-sized instrument of 26 stops built by Johann Gottlob Klemm, a recent immigrant from Germany.

But who was Henry Neering, "organ-maker"? Surely he was the first person to be so designated in the North American colonies. A possible suspect is Hendrick Neering, baptized on July 23, 1681, in the Dutch Reformed Church of what was then New Amsterdam.³ He would have been 22 years old in 1703, old enough to have finished an apprenticeship of some kind, and ready to enter the workforce. But where might he have learned anything about organs, in a place where none—save possibly a small positive in Philadelphia—was known to exist? It might have been in England or on the Caribbean island of Barbados, a British colony since 1605, and one where active trading was carried on with New York and other East Coast shipping centers as well as with London. In 1699, the London organbuilder Bernard Smith sent a three-manual

organ to St. Michael's Church in Bridgetown, Barbados, and it is recorded that it was set up by one John Henry Norring. The name—considering the variants in spelling of names in the period—is too similar to ignore, and, as we will presently see, there was no shortage of both Henry and John Henry Neerings/Nearings in the American colonies.

But how did he get to Barbados—and, ultimately, back to New York? In the records of St. Michael's Church in Bridgetown we find that the church's London agent, William Brooke, was requested to "procure some able person to come over with said organ, who understands the setting up of such an instrument." Here we enter the realm of conjecture, for it would appear that Norring must have worked for a time for Bernard Smith, one of London's leading organbuilders. If we assume that the "able person" in question was Hendrick Neering, then it is possible that, at the usual apprenticeship age of 14 or 15, he had decided to sail to London to seek his fortune and ended up in Smith's workshop. This would have been around 1695, when Smith was beginning work on his largest organ thus far, for St. Paul's Cathedral, and was perhaps more likely than usual to hire extra help. Thus, by 1699, the apprentice—now nearing the end of his apprenticeship period—would have surely "understood the setting up" of an organ the size of the St. Michael's one, said to have been a "twin" to that built at the same time for the King's Banqueting House in London.5 Perhaps too that apprentice—still assuming he was Henry Neering-was getting a bit homesick and decided that he could conveniently return to New York via Barbados, where New York trading ships often stopped.

^{1.} A.H. Messiter, A History of the Choir and Music of Trinity Church, New York (New York: Edwin S. Gorham, 1906), 290.

^{2.} Ibid.

^{3.} Collections of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, Vol. II (New York: 1901).

^{4. &}quot;Records of the Vestry of St. Michael." Journal of the Barbados Museum and Historical Society, Vol. 17 (Bridgetown, 1950), 191.

^{5.} Andrew Freeman and John Rowntree, Father Smith (Oxford: Positif Press, 1977), 140.

Norring is mentioned only twice in St. Michael's records after the arrival of the organ. Apparently, the organ had originally been ordered without reed stops, but two had been added at the last minute or perhaps even sent separately, for in March 1799 the vestry "agreed at the same time with John Henry Norring his workmanship and care in putting up the said two extraordinary stops [Trumpet and Voice Humane] and that he shall receive and be paid forty pounds current money." Norring was still in Barbados in September 1701, when the vestry "ordered that Mr. John Henry Norring be allowed five and twenty pounds a year for keeping the organ in very good order."6 After that date Norring is mentioned no more in the church's records. But it seems more than coincidence that by 1703 the vestrymen of Trinity Church, New York, were discussing the "making and erecting an organ" with one Henry Neering, specifically designated as an Organ-maker, a title that could have been justified by his prior experience.

So who was he, and what else do we know about him? Not much, actually, although a skimming of Internet genealogical sites does provide him with a family connection, and also a confusing collection of similarly named relatives, all of whom were descended from Willem and Sarah Vigoroux Neering, who emigrated from Holland to New Amsterdam around 1650. It seems probable that John Hendrick/Henry Neering and Hendrick/Henry Neering were the same person, and a grandson of Willem. One genealogy gives his baptism in the Dutch church as occurring in 1687 rather than 1681, but I am more inclined to trust the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's church record source. Most of Willem's descendants eventually anglicized their names, and after a few generations the spelling of the surname became Nearing, the form used by his descendants to the present day. Some of the Nearings migrated to the Dutch colony in New Castle, Delaware, where Jan Willems Neering (later anglicized to John Williams) worked as a joiner, but John Henry and his family

6. "Records of the Vestry," op. cit., 201.

moved to Connecticut, first to the Fairfield area, and eventually to a farm in Simsbury, near Hartford, where John Henry Nearing died on September 4, 1733.

If John Henry Nearing really did train as an organbuilder in London, he would have found himself sadly ahead of his time when he returned to his native New York. As his failed attempt with Trinity Church proved, there simply was not yet a viable market for organs in the American colonies in the first decade of the 18th century, and he would have had to make his living in other ways. Probably this would have been in some form of woodworking, for in his will he gave his lands and other possessions to his wife, Ann, "except my carpenter and joyner tools," which he bequeathed to his sons John Henry and Emmanuel, then aged twelve and nine. The younger John Henry continued what was apparently a family tradition of carpentry and joinery, and is said to have built the Congregational Church in Brookfield, Connecticut, in 1757.

It is of interest, though, that two genealogical sources assert that according to family tradition, the elder John Henry Nearing was an organbuilder. Whether this was based on an interpretation of the Trinity Church episode, or on something John Henry may have told his children (perhaps about his travels?) is unknown. There is at present no evidence that he ever made a church organ, although perhaps the slight possibility that he could have made a chamber organ at some point in his life, since such small domestic instruments were beginning to proliferate before the time of his death. If he ever did make an organ of any kind on American soil, he would have earned the distinction of having been America's first native-born organbuilder

7. Charles William Manwaring, A Digest of Early Connecticut Probate Records (R.S. Peck & Co., 1906), 86.

8. Most genealogical material is from Robert Treat Dann, Martha Kay Nearing and Julia Pierce Parker. *Descendants of Willem Neering and Sara Vigoroux*, J.P. Parker, 1999, and the website "Ancestors of Harold Monroe, Jr." Interestingly, both sources state that "family tradition" recorded that John Henry Nearing was an organbuilder.

Jane Errera St. Anne's Church Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

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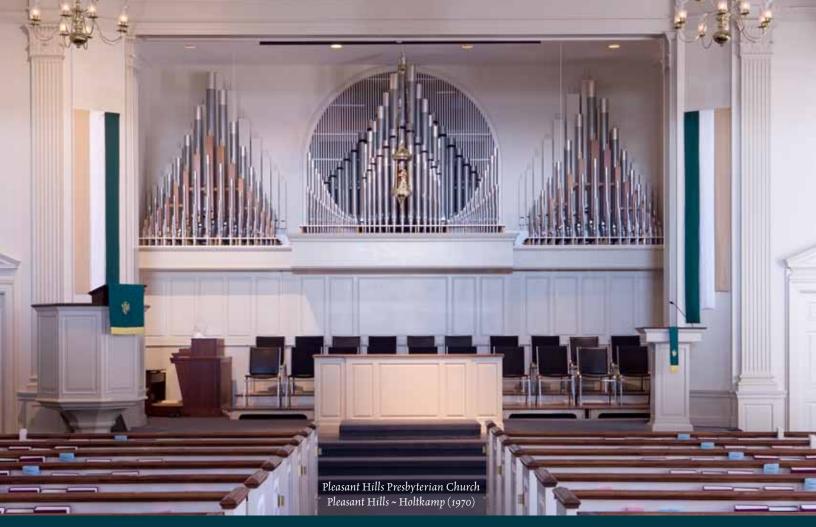




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ARTICLE BY James M. Stark

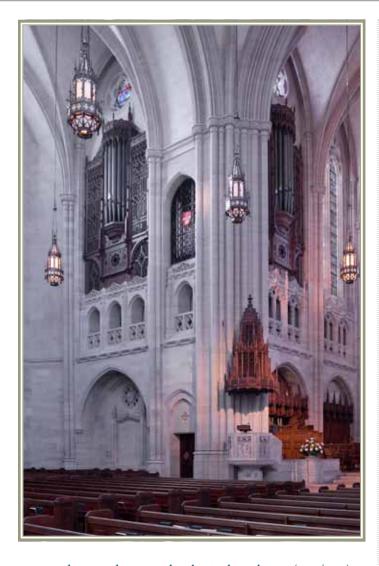
PHOTOS BY Len Levasseur

ittsburgh has been called the "Renaissance City" because it has had to reinvent itself more than once over the past 70 years. The phrase was coined back in the 1950s when Pittsburgh was trying to shake off its "smoky city" image and revitalize its downtown (The Golden Triangle) as a corporate headquarters location. Both problems were handily solved in the 1980s with the loss of both the area's industrial base and a number of corporate headquarters. The city's population has declined from a peak of 677,000 to now about 300,000. The seven-county metropolitan area has fared better, but has, at best, remained stable. The local economy is now largely based on health care and education, with the University of Pittsburgh replacing the once mighty Jones & Laughlin Steel as the city's largest employer. Unemployment, however, remains below the national average. The former J&L Steel "hot metal" bridge, which connected the two sides of their plant along the banks of the Monongahela River, is now used for bicycle traffic. Pittsburgh is aggressively turning the corner as a post-industrial city.

Because of the dramatic changes that the city has undergone, many 19th-century organs were lost during the boom years of the first quarter of the 20th century. Much early 20th-century organbuilding was also lost during the boom years that followed the Second World War. That, in turn, was fol-

lowed by declining population and subsequent church closings. In spite of all this, we will be able to experience the history of organbuilding in the Pittsburgh region between 1838 and 1970. Most of the organs will be unaltered or fully restored. In addition, we will visit many buildings of architectural significance, including three churches by Ralph Adams Cram and Henry Hornbostel's monumental Temple Rodef Shalom, built through the generosity of the Kaufmann family (of department store fame) who also gave us "Fallingwater," their country house built over a waterfall, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright—now a National Historic Landmark.

We will begin our journey on Monday afternoon, June 21, with an optional tour of the Frick Art and Historical Center. This was Henry Clay Frick's first home, considerably more domestic than the later New York residence that houses the vast majority of his art collection. The Fricks had neither the space nor the money for a large pipe organ, so, at Andrew Carnegie's suggestion, they purchased a Welte orchestrion that will be demonstrated. After dinner on your own, we will gather at Calvary Episcopal Church where the Fricks and other powerful Pittsburgh families worshipped. Harvey Gaul served as organist and choirmaster here for almost fifty years. The young Australian organist, Peter Guy, will play the IV/138 Casavant organ (1963/1991).



East Liberty Presbyterian Church ~ Aeolian-Skinner (1935/2007)

On Tuesday morning we will board the buses at 8:30, as we will most days, for a trip down the Ohio River to the streetcar suburb of Bellevue were Ann Labounsky will play the II/42 Phelps Casavant (1964). The group will then split, with Group A going to St. John's Lutheran in Perrysville where Charlotte Roederer will demonstrate a 1917 tubular-pneumatic II/9 Estey restored by Ray Brunner, while Group B goes on to Hartwood Acres for a tour of the mansion, have lunch, and possibly hear the 1909/1910 Aeolian organ, which is currently undergoing restoration by a largely volunteer group in anticipation of the convention. Hartwood, a country estate designed by New York architect Alfred Hopkins, was built for John and Mary Flinn Lawrence. The organ was a gift to Mary from her father, the wealthy Pittsburgh contractor William Flinn, considered one of the country's most corrupt politicians by author Lincoln Steffins. After Flinn's death in 1924, the Lawrences began work on their new home and Mary had



Calvary Episcopal Church ~ Casavant (1963/1991)

the organ installed there in 1930. The estate is now an Allegheny County Park.

After lunch on the lawn and tours of the house, both groups will have a chance to hear James Cook play the 1970 II/16 Möller tracker at Nativity Lutheran Church in nearby Allison Park. Group B will make a stop in Perrysville on the way back to town and both groups will gather at St. Benedict the Moor Church, in Pittsburgh's Lower Hill District, to hear a recital by Kevin Birch on the 1872, Erie-built, II/25 Derrick & Felgemaker organ. Afterward, we will board one of the Gateway Clipper Fleet's boats for a tour of Pittsburgh's three rivers and dinner aboard.

Wednesday we will wend our way to Pittsburgh's North Side, the former City of Allegheny. James Hammann will play the III/35 Farrand & Votey (1895) in Calvary Methodist Church, home of three very large Tiffany windows, which were displayed at the 1893 Columbian Exposition. Our next stop will be Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in the town of Beaver to hear a one-manual and Pedal, seven-rank Felgemaker



Eastminster Presbyterian Church ~ Aeolian-Skinner (1953)



All Saints Church, Etna ~ Hook & Hastings (1895)

from 1898. This organ was moved from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the neighboring town of Rochester and restored by OHS members Dana Hull and John Cawkins. Richard Konzen will perform on this wonderful little instrument.

After lunch at Jeffries Landing, on the banks of the Beaver River, Andrew Scanlon will play the II/19 Hook & Hastings (1928) at the First Presbyterian Church in nearby New Brighton. This unaltered organ (Opus 2948) was a contemporary of the much-rebuilt organ (Opus 2540) in Riverside Church, New York City, and can give an idea of the Hook & Hastings sound of that period.

Another short bus ride will take us to St. John's "Burry's" Church near the small town of Zelienople, an area of early German settlement. Here, in the third building on the same location, is a one-manual, four-rank organ built by Joseph Harvey of Western Pennsylvania in 1838. We know very little of Harvey who appears to have begun building organs and manufacturing pianos in the Pittsburgh area in 1823. This is



Church of the Assumption, Bellevue ~ Casavant (1964)

his only known surviving instrument and it will be demonstrated by Gregory Crowell.

Moving further north to the university town of Slippery Rock, we will hear the 1969 II/19 Flentrop at Center United Presbyterian Church played by Paul Weber. This may have been one of the few organbuilding projects in Western Pennsylvania to have been influenced by the installation of the Beckerath organ in Pittsburgh's St. Paul Cathedral in 1962. We will finish the day with some free time, dinner at Grove City College, and then a recital by Thomas Murray on the IV/36, 62-stop Kimball (1931) in Harbison Chapel. After suffering the indignities of many symphonic organs during the 1960s and 1970s, this organ was fully restored by A. Thompson-Allen and Nelson Barden in 2000. They even located a contemporary Kimball console to replace the later supply house addition.

Thursday will first take us east to the Highland Park section of the city and to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to hear

Charles Huddleston Heaton and Donald Wilkins perform on the IV/40 Skinner/Luley organ. This organ began life in 1913 as E.M. Skinner's Opus 202 and has been substantially added to by local organbuilder Peter Luley who is also the church's organist and choirmaster.

Wilkinsburg, on the eastern edge of the city of Pittsburgh, was a prosperous town in the 1920s, and St. James Parish built a very large new church that was dedicated in 1930. With the economy collapsing, however, they appear to have moved the organ from their former church to the new building and did not have the funds for a replacement until the early 1960s when they began negotiations with Möller. Ernest White, then tonal director, designed a III/56 organ with unenclosed Great and Positive and with the Swell divided into two separate chambers. Will Headlee will demonstrate this unusual instrument.

Passing through the town of Homestead, famous for the 1892 strike in which the Pinkerton detectives launched an amphibious assault against the steel workers, we move on up



St. Benedict the Moor R.C. Church ~ Felgemaker (1872)

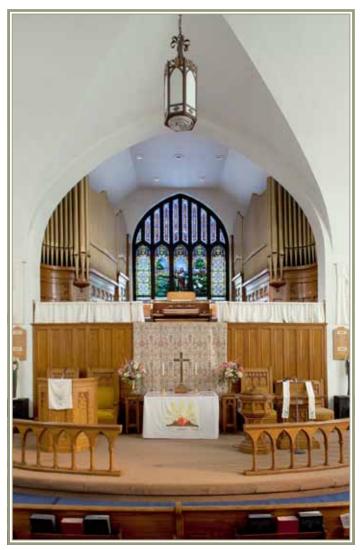
the hill to Munhall and St. Therese of Lisieux Church to hear an unaltered II/33 Casavant (1960). Here, tonal director Lawrence Phelps was confronted with the challenge of providing accompaniment for a choir behind the altar while supplying a large body of sound in a very large room with what seems to have been a limited budget and limited space. Stephen Schnurr will play a program well suited to the instrument.

From Munhall we go to Pleasant Hills Presbyterian Church for lunch and the annual meeting. After the meeting we will move to the sanctuary to hear George Bozeman on the unaltered (including the setter board in the hallway) II/36 1970 Holtkamp organ. We will then return to the hotel for some free time and dinner. After dinner, it is on to East Liberty Presbyterian Church where Paul Jacobs will play the IV/120 Aeolian-Skinner (1935) recently restored by Goulding & Wood.

Friday, the final day of the regular convention, will begin in the Allegheny River town of Verona where Carol Britt will perform on the II/12 Wirsching (1915). This largely original



St. John's Lutheran Church, Zelienople ~ Joseph Harvey (1838)



Verona United Methodist Church, Verona ~ Wirsching (1915)

instrument was built just a few months after the firm had gone into receivership, and exhibits some interesting compromises. Nevertheless, it remains one of the best examples of Wirsching's work. Then, on to All Saints Church, Etna, to hear Russell Weismann on the II/25 Hook & Hastings (1895), which was moved to the church through the efforts of OHS member, and co-chair of this convention, J.R. Daniels.

Next, two groups will trade between neighboring Oakland institutions, First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh and Temple Rodef Shalom. First Unitarian's II/21 organ contains 20 of the original 21 ranks of a 1904 Philipp Wirsching. While the windchests and console have been replaced, it retains a distinctive Wirsching sound. Mark Frazier will play. Although only a portion of Rodef Shalom's IV/54 Kimball (1907) is usable, it remains as Kimball left it in 1929 when the key action was electrified. This instrument received an OHS Citation, number 31, in 1981 and will be demonstrated by Donald Fellows. Lunch will be served at Rodef Shalom between visits.













Then some free time to either return to the hotel or remain in Oakland to visit, on your own, Carnegie Museum or the University of Pittsburgh's Nationality Rooms.

Late in the afternoon, we will gather in the Carnegie Music Hall to discuss the fascinating history of the currently unplayable 1933 Aeolian-Skinner organ. Throughout its history, the hall's organs—a Farrand & Votey (1895), E.M. Skinner (1917 and 1933), and Aeolian-Skinner (1950)—have been played by Frederic Archer, Edwin H. Lemare, Charles Heinroth, Marshall Bidwell, and Paul Koch in more than 4,000 re-

Top Left Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Beaver ~ Felgemaker (1898) Top Right: Center Presbyterian Church, Slippery Rock ~ Flentrop (1969) Left: St. John's Lutheran Church, Perrysville ~ Estey (1917)







Harbison Chapel, Grove City ~ Kimball (1931)

citals. Following will be dinner in the opulent, marble-lined foyer, and then on to St. Paul Cathedral for a recital by Wolfgang Rübsam on the IV/97 Beckerath organ (1962), which some consider to be Beckerath's finest instrument. Since it will still be daylight, those walking the few bocks to the cathedral may stop by Heinz Chapel, on the University of Pittsburgh campus, to view the extraordinary Charles Connick stained-glass windows.

The optional Saturday activities will first take us to the Youghiogheny River town of West Newton and to the First Methodist Church, founded by pastor and noted hymn-writer, Samuel Wakefield. Here, a splendid and unaltered II/11 tubular-pneumatic Austin (1905) will be played by young OHS member Joseph Tuttle and friends. After lunch, we will hear a recital on the II/37 Casavant (1956) in Holy Rosary Church

followed by a demonstration of an 1863 II/11 Jardine. Because the purchase of an organ was so controversial in 19th-century Presbyterian churches, this instrument actually caused the split of a congregation in nearby Sewickley. This unaltered organ, currently in storage, will be set up in Trinity Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh especially for this occasion.

After dinner on your own, the final evening will bring us to Eastminster Presbyterian Church in the East Liberty neighborhood where Neil Stahursky and Yeeha Chiu will present a program of organ and piano literature. The organ is a tonally unaltered III/68 G. Donald Harrison Aeolian-Skinner (1953).

During the week, we will have heard a number of very fine musical instruments played by equally fine performers. It is the hope of the Pittsburgh Committee that the convention attendees will have had some fun but, equally important, will have learned something about the history of organbuilding in Western Pennsylvania.

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Nativity Lutheran Church, Allison Park ~ Möller (1970)

BOOKS

Longhurst, John, Magnum Opus: The Building of the Schoenstein Organ at the Conference Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City. Salt Lake City: Mormon Tabernacle Choir, 2009. 210 pp; CD demonstration recording included; \$32.99. Available from www.ohscatalog.org. Salt Lake City, Utah, has long been a destination for tourists, and those interested in music have been particularly attracted to the city by opportunities to hear the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and the Aeolian-Skinner organ in the Tabernacle. Considering its long tradition of musical excellence, it is not surprising that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints chose to furnish its new Conference Center in Salt Lake City with an appropriate pipe organ. Magnum Opus by John Longhurst is the story of that organ: an instrument of 130 ranks built by Schoenstein & Co., and inaugurated in 2003.

Having served in the position of Tabernacle organist for 30 years, Dr. Longhurst was well qualified to write an insider's view of the organ project. Not only was he involved in all aspects of the project, but he also had access to many documents related to the organ, as well as personal recollections from others who participated in various phases of the project.

Soon after plans for the Conference Center were announced, organists and organ technicians of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir staff were given the task of determining the type of instrument most appropriate for a new building of monumental size (seating 21,000). Early in the process, the organists agreed that a pipe organ would be a more suitable instrument than either an electronic instrument or a combination electronic and pipe organ.

The next step was to select a tonal ideal. The organ staff found the tonal

model they were looking for in an organ built in 1910-11 by Los Angeles organbuilder Murray M. Harris. Longhurst commented: "Here was the warmth, color, and nobility we felt were needed for our organ!" (p. 58) Following an extensive investigation, during which the instruments of various builders were compared, Schoenstein & Co. was selected to build the Conference Center organ. Similarity between the firm's tonal orientation and the Murray M. Harris style was a significant factor in this choice.

Potential builders of the new organ had been sent guidelines developed by the organ staff. These clarified practical considerations as well as musical goals. They stipulated that the organ should have four or five manuals, and about 125 ranks of pipes. It should be an eclectic organ, tonally centered at 8' pitch, with "breadth, richness, and nobility in keeping with the scale of the room." (p. 82) The organ's primary use would be to accompany the choir and congregation in religious services and large-scale concerts, but it should also be an appropriate instrument for organ solo repertoire.

The guidelines recognized that music and speech would both require amplification to reach the far corners of the vast auditorium: "It is our intention that the organ be scaled and voiced to balance with the choir, and that no attempt be made to design an organ of sufficient power to fill the room with sound unaided." (p. 82) An organ large enough and loud enough to fill the entire space was judged neither practical nor desirable. Ultimately, the organ proved to be entirely adequate without amplification for recital audiences of several thousand, seated in the central part of the auditorium.

The book contains eleven chapters. The first three provide summaries of church history and organization, the place of religious and secular music in

Mormon society, and the history of organs in Temple Square, Salt Lake City. Chapters IV and V describe the process of deciding on an appropriate instrument for the proposed Convention Center and the selection of an organ builder. The next four chapters lead the reader step-by-step through the design of the facade, the refinement of the stoplist, the design of the console, and the long, sometimes frustrating process of installation and tonal finishing. The final two chapters comment on the finished organ as an expression of the American Romantic style, and summarize the many ways the Conference Center organ has been incorporated into the musical life of Temple Square. A bountiful supply of photos illustrates the text. Many are quite small; enlarging these and including a few full-page pictures would have enhanced an otherwise handsome publication.

In six Appendix sections one finds "Pipe Scale Chart," "The Console Platform" (details of the platform's structure), "Graffiti Found Inside the Organ Case," "A Symphonic Organ for the World's Largest Theater Auditorium" (an article by Jack Bethards reprinted from the January 2004 issue of The American Organist), "Console Control Layout" (four diagrams), and "Schoenstein & Co. Pipe Organ Tonal Color Wheel" (a diagram developed by Jack Bethards to illustrate the relationship of individual organ stops and families of stops to visual colors and vowel sounds). Additionally there is a "Timeline" extending from 1996 (when the building of the Conference Center was first announced) to 2008, a "Glossary of Organ Terms," and an index.

A CD recording included with the book contains a narrated tour of the organ's tonal resources. Jack Bethards, president and tonal director of Schoenstein & Co., is the narrator, and Tabernacle organists John Longhurst, Clay Christiansen, and Andrew Unsworth play demonstrations of individual stops, ensembles, and excerpts of organ pieces representing various historic periods and musical styles.

Magnum Opus is a "good read" for non-organists as well as for those in the profession. Much of the text is a non-technical narrative, and the glossary explains essential organ jargon. Throughout, there are interesting details too numerous to list. One reader will be especially intrigued by the series of photos in Chapter VI illustrating the evolution of the facade design; another will be fascinated by the charts in Chapter X comparing the Mormon Tabernacle organ with the Conference Center organ.

One would hope that this book might find its way not only to the organist's bookshelf, but also to the reading lists of organ selection committees. Implied in its text are answers to those frequently-asked questions about why pipe organs cost so much and take so long to build, as well as some very good ideas about organizing plans for a new organ. Here are procedures that can be applied to organ projects of any size. However, the book's major attraction resides in its contribution to organ scholarship: a well-written, definitive study of an important new American organ.

—Orpha Ochse

James Burchill: The Organs and Organists of the Cathedral Church of All Saints, Halifax, Nova Scotia. 47 pp. Available from jfburchill@ns.sympatico.ca. The Cathedral Church of All Saints was designated the diocesan cathedral in 1905 when the pro-cathedral burned. Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson, the choice as architects having been based on a central tower that was never built, designed the building. The cathedral was opened in September 1910 and has had two organs, a 1910 Casavant and its present 1961 Hill, Norman, and Beard. While the Casavant was being

designed, the then-dean of the cathedral, convinced that Canadian diapasons lacked the depth and sweetness of tone of English diapasons, had nine diapason ranks imported. In 1943, a new five-manual console was added in the hope that a ten-stop Antiphonal would be built, but it never was. Dr. Burchill, organist 1971-77 and 1994-2006, was the third-longest serving and the only one to have been previously a chorister. This 8½" by 11" booklet provides a history of the cathedral, stoplists of the two organs, biographies of all organists and choirmasters, and lists of choral music from some representative years. Nine full-page color photographs document the cathedral inside and out, as well as the organ. In all, this is a wellwritten and nicely produced homage to the descendant of the first Anglican cathedral in North America.

Rollin Smith

CDS

J.S. Bach Organ Sonatas, BWV 525-530. Christopher Wrench. Carsten Lund organ (1995), Garnisons Kirke, Copenhagen. Melba Recordings, Elwood Victoria, Australia. Australian \$26.00. English, French, and German texts. This disc is handsomely packaged with wellwritten notes on the music and with registrations for all six sonatas. Christopher Wrench's performance is inflexible and his choice of stops is more often than not monochromatic with little color difference between the voices. With an 8' Principal in both hands, the opening movement of Sonata No. 1 is marred by such explosive pipe articulation that it is difficult to follow the two contrapuntal lines.

The organ at the Garnisons Kirke (Garrison Church), Copenhagen, was built in 1995 by Carsten Lund of Denmark and is a historical reconstruction of the 1724 instrument by Lambert Daniel Kastens (misspelled once as

Karstens in the liner notes), a pupil of Arp Schnitger who set up shop in Copenhagen in the 1720s. Lund used Kasten's case and facade; none of latter's organs is known to exist today, bringing into question the authenticity of Lund's "reconstruction."

—Bynum Petty

Organ Rolls Played on the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle Organ. Verdi: Grand March, from Aida; Kreisler: Caprice Viennois; d'Ambrosio: En Badinant; Bonnet: Angélus du Soir; Chopin: Etude in A Minor; Tchaikovsky: Dance of the Toys from Nutcracker Suite; Wagner: Ride of the Valkyries from Die Walküre; Franck: Allegretto from Symphony in D Minor; Schumann: Träumerei; Saint-Saëns: My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice, from Samson et Dalila; Dvorák: Humoresque; Pierné: Serenade; Schubert: Ave Maria; Stravinsky: Ronde des Princesses, Berceuse and Finale from The Firebird. JAV Recordings JAV 160, \$25. E.M. Skinner's Opus 603 was originally installed in an 850-seat auditorium in the Toledo Museum of Art. It was dedicated in January 1927 by Lynnwood Farnam, who had acted as consultant. It is the largest Skinner organ built with a fully automatic roll-playing mechanism. In 1933, the organ was relocated to a larger auditorium, the Peristyle, with double the seating capacity, and played for the first time in October of that year by Marcel Dupré.

Like many organs, this one suffered from the elements: a leaking roof over the Choir and Solo chambers, flooding in the basement relay room (affecting the player mechanism), and the severing of the console cable and wind line during the installation of a stage elevator. From this disastrous state, Joe Dzeda and Nicholas Thompson-Allen faithfully restored the organ to its original condition. Those who

attended the OHS Cleveland Convention last summer remember Stephen Tharp's brilliant recital on this instrument.

The interesting collection of rolls heard on this CD is much what millionaires of the '20s heard. All of the rolls are "fully-automatic," operating the stops and expression as well as playing the notes. The rolls were not played by an organist, but arranged and then perforated by the manufacturer. Considering that no two organs are alike, the reality that one roll would sound good on all organs is an impossible dream. Most of the works here utilize one of Skinner's beautiful solo stops, but the accompaniments are often so soft they are barely audible. This is particularly apparent in the Stravinsky that suddenly moves from inaudible shimmering strings to full organ. Obviously, the microphones were set at one level based on the loudest sections. It would have been better to set levels for each piece so we could enjoy the softer selections with more presence.

If you have never heard Skinner organ rolls, do not pass up this chance. The museum organ is an outstanding vehicle for this music and you will be amazed at how "orchestral" many of these transcriptions sound.

—Rollin Smith

An Elm Court Musicale, Thomas Murray, Peter Stoltzfus, et al., organists; E.M. Skinner Residence Organ, Opus 783 (1929). Borowski, Sonata No. 1 in A; Archer (arr.), Scottish Folk Tune—The Flowers of the Forest; Fleury, Variations sur un noël bourguignon; Liszt, Angelus; R.K. Biggs, Toccata, Deo Gratias; Vierne, Pastorale, Divertissement; Stravinsky, Firebird: Berceuse and Finale; Thomas, Overture to Mignon; Yon, Sonata No. 2 "Cromatica"; Youmans, Tea for Two; Dukas, The Sorcerer's Apprentice. JAV Recordings

JAV 139, \$25. Available from www. ohscatalog.org.

This is the second CD set featuring the organ at Elm Court, a rare surviving player organ by E.M. Skinner, lovingly and expertly restored by the A. Thompson-Allen Company. It contains a mix of performances by Thomas Murray, Peter Stoltzfus, several hand perforated rolls by unnamed organists or perhaps "orchestrators," and one credited to Chandler Goldthwaite. The Stoltzfus numbers were actually recorded during the session for the previous CD but were omitted due to lack of disc space. Both of the "live" performances are perfectly in tune with the music and the instrument. Murray's selections are seldom-heard works, but each is exquisitely played and provides a fine musical experience. His use of the swell pedal is superb and illustrates the answer to the question, "What is the proper position of the swell shutters?" Answer: "In motion!"

Of course, some credit for the excellence of the swell pedaling is due to E.M. Skinner's whiffletree swell engines, which are capable of at least 16 positions and lightning-fast operation. It is always frustrating for me when I have to deal with a swell device that has so few stations that build-ups are jerky and that is so sluggish that one has to work the pedal a measure ahead of the desired result.

Stoltzfus plays two of the 24 Pièces en style libre by Louis Vierne, and it is hard to imagine a better instrument or performer for these.

The rolls seem to exploit this particular organ quite beautifully, with one curious exception, the Yon Sonata. The liner notes are incorrect—this sonata is not a single movement. However, we hear only the first one. The performance here is by Chandler Goldthwaite, made in the 1920s. I suppose the registration is okay, although it doesn't particularly follow the detailed suggestions in my score. The rhythmic

freedom Goldthwaite employs seems a distortion to me, and the use of the swell shutters makes no sense at all. I couldn't help but wonder if this particular roll player was misinterpreting the instructions on the rolls.

In spite of this quibble, and, indeed, it is the only one I have, I enjoyed this CD thoroughly and recommend it for your ears. It is a valuable addition to the documentation of a fascinating period and style of American organbuilding.

Organ Music of Seth Bingham, Vol. I, Christopher Marks, Organist, Schoenstein & Co. organ, Opus 126, at the First Plymouth Congregational Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. Raven, OAR-990, \$14.98. Available from www.ohscatalog. org. This recording is a lovely surprise on all counts. First, how many people today know what a fascinating and gifted composer Seth Bingham was? If the label "Volume 1" indicates more is coming, I await it breathlessly. Secondly, the organ seems beautifully suited to this colorful music. Thirdly, Christopher Marks (although this is hardly a surprise; I've heard him in person and was wowed) plays the music with deep insight and spirit. Finally the recording quality is excellent, also no surprise in a Raven production.

I've personally experienced and played only one Schoenstein instrument that utilizes the multiple expression facilities this organ has. My impression then was that it was fun to play with, but not particularly helpful for anything except improvisation. But here, perhaps with better acoustics than that of the one I played, the idea of a grand "sound machine" is ideal. Bingham obviously conceived the organ as such a machine, much as his contemporaries Vierne, Dupré, Messaien, and others did. The colors are of neverending variety, all beautiful. My only quibble with the instrument heard here

is a certain opacity of the larger ensemble effects, a bit too well blended, but nevertheless very "English" because of this very quality.

Bingham's compositional technique owes a great deal to his admiration of French models of his time, but his tonal palette seems solidly Anglo-American. The contents of the disc are divided into four headings. First are the five Pastoral Psalms, Opus 30. Beautifully crafted and very evocative, they portray the poetic notes that Bingham wrote to describe them. Five Pieces, Opus 36, is somewhat more miscellaneous, containing a Prelude and Fughetta, an Agnus Dei, an Introduction and Toccata on Leoni ("The God of Abraham Praise"), a lush tone poem called Night Sorrow, which was transcribed from an orchestral work, and Bells of Riverside. As Marks remarks in his excellent liner notes, this last work should certainly be added to the large repertoire of carillon pieces.

The third section contains perhaps the best-known piece of Bingham, the *Rhythmic Trumpet*, one of five pieces in *Baroques*, Opus 41. These works are inspired by, but not by any means copies of, various Baroque forms. Indeed, some are so highly original that one is puzzled at first by the idea that they have any relation to Baroque music.

It is the final section, Variation Studies, Opus 54, that really blew my mind. Beginning with a Choral, which introduces us to the theme, Bingham then treats us to ten amazing variations. Many of them pay homage to his friends and contemporaries such as Dupré, Langlais, and others. The work was dedicated to Harold Gleason and edited and fingered by his wife, Catharine Crozier. All of the variations are miniatures; the longest is just two and a half minutes. Thus, this work, with its fertile compositional and tonal variety, would be an excellent one to showcase a large organ in an opening or demonstration recital.

This CD is, of course, an important document of the history of American organ composition. But don't let that serious notion keep you from enjoying a delightful experience of beautiful, haunting music and luscious sounds.

Master Series, Volume V: Marilyn Mason, DVD, American Guild of Organists, \$20.00. Available from www.agohq.org/store or 1-800-**AGO-5115.** This is the only one of this series I have seen. It is an enjoyable visit with one of our most distinguished performers and teachers. Colleagues and former students provide reminiscences and interview her. Several students are featured in lesson/ performances and Mason makes some comments about their playing and the music. The organs played are the large Aeolian-Skinner in Hill Auditorium, and the Fisk in the Blanche Anderson Moore Auditorium, both at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Mason plays works by Mozart, Duruflé, Boulanger, and Guilmant. She also tells some of her trademark stories. The DVD provides a fine documentation of a key figure in 20th-century American organ activities, and gives a taste of what it must be like to study with such an energetic, knowing, and delightful phenomenon. However, don't expect this to be like a masterclass, giving all kinds of insights into the works her students perform. Her remarks are limited to a few general points and praise for her students' hard work.

This is a delightful DVD and should be in every OHS member's library.

The Art of the Symphonic Organist, Volume 3, Thomas Murray plays the Skinner Organ in the Toledo Museum of Art Peristyle, JAV Recordings JAV 154, \$25. I'm chagrined to say that I have not heard Volumes 1 and 2 of this series because, if they are as delightful as this one, I've missed a lot. The Toledo Skinner heard here is a delicious box of goodies, heard in rapturous perfection due to a meticulous restoration by Joseph Dzeda, Nicholas Thompson-Allen, and their New Haven wizards, and a fine capture of its mellow sounds by recording engineer Edward Kelley. The entire JAV package is fine indeed and I heartily recommend you add it to your collection.

As one might expect from the title of this series, some of the music here was originally intended for other musical forces. Or, as the preface to the "Leftovers" section of an earlier edition of *The Joy of Cooking* put it, "it appears that some of this material has already been blessed."

I was puzzled by the first number on the disk, a Prelude and Fugue by Mendelssohn, until I read in the notes that it was transcribed by Murray from a piano work. John Cook's *Fanfare* was originally *son et lumière* music written for the Festival of Britain in 1951. The Mozart Fantasia is, of course, taken from a composition for a mechanical clock organ, and the Vivaldi Concerto in D Minor was arranged by no less than J.S. Bach. The remaining works by Howells, Pierné, Jongen, and Guilmant were conceived for the organ.

This whole notion of the "Symphonic Organ" has always rankled me a bit, not because it isn't more-or-less apt, but rather because it's usually presented as a radical new concept that appeared about the time E.M. Skinner got into his stride. That, first of all, ignores the indeed-new direction pointed by Aristide Cavaillé-Coll in his symphonic organs a couple of generations earlier, which inspired a whole raft of grand works called "Symphonies" by Widor, Vierne, et al. And this very disk has an even earlier example of the organ essaying to be an orchestra, the Vivaldi transcription by Bach.

reviews | continued

Carl Pfatteicher, I believe it was, in the preface to The Organists' Golden Treasury, a three-volume collection of German choral preludes of the Renaissance and Baroque, stated that the organ was a sui generis instrumentthat is, its own thing, and not an imitation of anything else. When I first read this back in the 1950s I thought "How true!" being caught up in the neo-Baroque movement as I was. But I've come to realize that one of the main characteristics of the organ throughout its history has been its role as a "one-man band." Indeed, it's this ability of the organ that made it the staple instrument of church music for so many centuries. Throughout that period, the ideal situation was to have an ensemble of gifted instrumentalists

(that grew into the symphony orchestra) in the choir loft every Sunday. But, when you consider the expense of paying these musicians, providing them with instruments, composing and arranging music for them, and copying out their parts, not to mention rehearsing, then the economy of having a single expert performer/composer at a single, admittedly expensive, yet longlasting instrument, begins to make a lot of sense.

The question should be, "what kind of orchestra or ensemble is the organ to imitate?" E.M. Skinner was enamored of the music of his time, the post-Wagnerian sonorities that required massed and legato strings and French horns providing a smooth underlying body. But Haydn

and Beethoven do not work so well on his "orchestra." Instead, you want an 1860s Hook for that. Of course the brilliant "fiddle-playing" of Vivaldi needs the bright Principals of a Baroque organ for an effective imitation, and the krummhorns, schalmeys, and blockflötes of late Renaissance organs are excellent copies of the instrumental ensembles of that period.

And so Thomas Murray has shown us what the "one-man band" of the 1920s can do. The Mendelssohn might be a hair early for this organ, and the Bach-Vivaldi certainly is, but Murray's artistry overcomes any mismatch handily. *Sui generis* indeed! With Murray at the helm, this organ can be anything he wants it to be.

—George Bozeman



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SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL, Denver, Colorado, is pleased to announce that Spencer Organ Company, Inc., of Waltham, Mass. will restore the cathedral's historic 5,953-pipe organ built by W.W. Kimball of Chicago. The four-manual, 96-rank instrument, Op. 7231, was dedicated on May 19, 1938, and was the last major project before Kimball ceased organbuilding operations in 1942 after the outbreak of World War II. The Denver Kimball is now prized because of its completely original condition (not a pipe has been changed), preserving a rich English Cathedral aesthetic popular between the wars.

Although the instrument has been well-maintained during its 71 years, it has developed mechanical problems with age and heavy use. To preserve the instrument and keep it at optimal condition, the cathedral has committed to a comprehensive restoration process. Much of the organ was removed in June 2009, not only for restoration, but also to allow repairs and improvements to the organ's chamber (built in a part of the cathedral intended as a temporary brick structure that has since become permanent). The organ restoration will include replacement of leather components, repair and renewal of mechanisms, and a thorough cleaning and regulation of all pipes.

The Spencer Organ Company, founded in 1995 by Joseph Rotella, specializes in the restoration of electropneumatic pipe organs. Mr. Rotella, who holds a BM degree from Boston University, apprenticed with Nelson Barden. The Spencer firm, with eleven employees, has since been entrusted with the restoration and maintenance of numerous Skinner, Aeolian-Skinner, and Kimball organs. The Denver project is a two-year program of staged work, beginning with the June removal, and scheduled for completion in the fall of 2011.

The Kimball restoration is part of an effort to improve several aspects of the building in commemoration of its 150th anniversary in 2010-11, which includes the 100th anniversary of the cathedral building itself. (The parish was founded in 1860; the current building was dedicated in 1911.) Fund-raising for those projects and anniversary programs is under way. Throughout this process, Saint John's will continue its extensive and much-loved music program without interruption.

Saint John's is also pleased to announce that it has purchased an instrument built in 1869 by E. & G.G.Hook, its Op. 476, for use while the 1938 Kimball undergoes restoration. The Hook was formerly in its original home, the First Methodist Church of Lawrence, Mass. The congregation currently using that building offered it for sale through the Organ Clearing House.

The Hook is a two-manual, 17stop, tracker-action instrument contained in a beautiful free-standing walnut case with Victorian-stenciled facade pipes. It was restored by Richard C. Hamar of Norwich, Conn., and Susan Tattershall of Denver, with additional materials and/or labor furnished by Norman Lane and Rick Morel of Denver, Rubin Frels of Victoria, Texas, Barbara Owen of Newburyport, Mass.,

and Michael Quimby of Warrensburg, Mo. In addition, over 1,400 hours have been contributed to the project by many parish volunteers and non-parishioner friends.

The restoration project follows the Organ Historical Society's Guidelines for Conservation and Restoration of pipe organs. The Pedal action, which was converted in 1911 to tubular-pneumatic by Hutchings, has been returned to mechanical action in Hook style. Subsequent tonal alterations had included substituting a 23/3' mutation stop and a 2' flute for the 8' Keraulophon and 4' Violina ranks in the Swell, respectively, and a 4' Flute d'Amour displaced the 16' Bourdon on the Great, which was moved to a jump slide. The Keraulophon pipes were found in the organ, and have been repaired and restored to their original place; the jump slide and the Flute d'Amour were removed, with the Bourdon being returned to its original location, the latter requiring a redesign of the toeboard. The 2' flute rank will remain in the organ for the time being until suitable replacement Violina pipes are found. The case has been given a new traditional shellac finish, and the facade pipes are being restored to their original color scheme.

Coincidentally, Saint John's had previous relationships with the Hook firm, purchasing two organs from them in succession: first, a small organ in 1875, which was used in its original church building in downtown Denver, and then a second, large three-manual organ in 1881 for the first cathedral located at 20th and Welton Streets, that burned in 1903.

The Hook organ has been placed on the floor of the nave in the back of the cathedral while repairs and refurbishing of elements of the chancel are undertaken. It is Saint John's intention to offer a recital series on the Hook beginning in early 2010.

—Michael Friesem

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EACH YEAR, a substantial number of members voluntarily renew their membership in the Organ Historical Society at levels above the basic dues rates, providing much-needed additional support for the Society's programs and services. Also, many members and friends generously support the Society's special funds and programs, making possible much of what we do, and providing for the future of the Society.

Those generous individuals who have contributed to OHS above basic dues levels for the 2008–2009 fiscal year (October 1, 2008, through September 30, 2009) and those who have supported our special funds from August 12, 2008, through September 30, 2009, are acknowledged here with the sincere thanks of the entire membership.

We also acknowledge here with thanks the corporate matching gifts received from the employers of generous OHS members.

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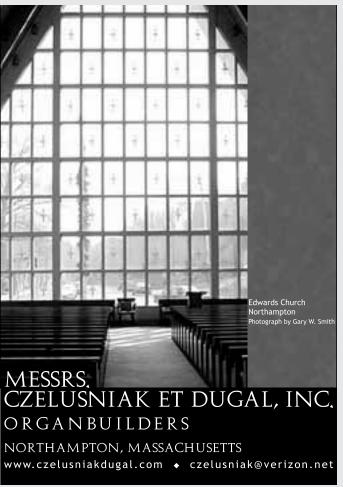
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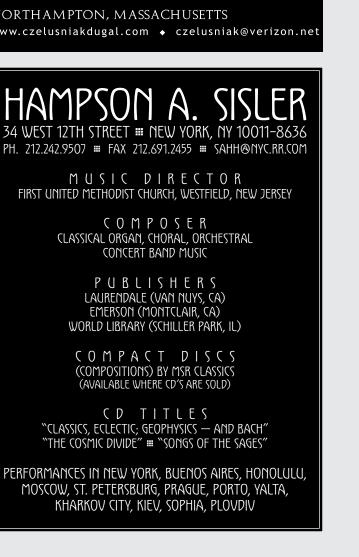
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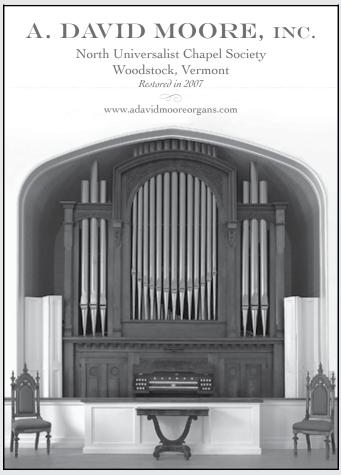
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SALLY SLADE WARNER, ORGANIST AND CARILLONNEUR, PASSED away on December 4, 2009, at the age of 77, of cancer, in the Merrimack Valley Hospice, Haverhill, Mass. Born September 6, 1932, in Worcester, Mass., and raised and educated in Fitchburg, Mass, she was the adopted daughter of the late Harold S. and Anna M. Slade, whom she always held in fond memory. She majored in organ performance at New England Conservatory, and shortly afterward passed both the Associateship and Choir Master examinations of the American Guild of Organists. As an organist, she was for some years associated with Everett Titcomb at the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Boston, eventually succeeding him after his death. After leaving that position, she remained in demand by local churches as a substitute organist and accompanist for the rest of her life. During the 1970s, she studied carillon playing, first with Earl Chamberlain, and then at the Royal Carillon School in Mechelin, Belgium, where she received her diploma "with great distinction."

In 1971, Sally moved to Andover, Mass., initially as house counselor at Abbot Academy, but two years later, she was hired as a music librarian at Phillips Academy, Andover, a position she held until her retirement 30 years later. During her tenure, she is credited with having transformed a meager sound recording collection into one of the most extensive collections of its kind in any comparable school. Thanks to her encyclopedic knowledge of music literature, she became a valuable resource to students and faculty alike, and was involved in many activities at the school as an associate faculty member. Before long, she also became carillonneur and carillon instructor at the Academy, where she gave regular concerts and tutored a number of students in carillon playing until the carillon tower was closed for structural reasons in the 1990s. In 1985, she was appointed carillonneur of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Cohasset, Mass., where she was responsible for both playing and engaging guest performers for the annual summer series of carillon concerts, a position she held until the time of her death. She also composed a number of carillon arrangements popular with her fellow carillonneurs, and has given carillon recitals throughout North America as well as in Europe. In 1988, she received a medal for Distinguished Service to the Carillon from the University of California, Berkeley.

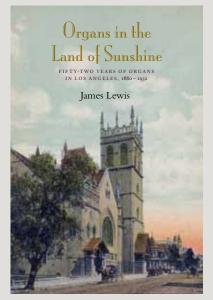
Sally was an active member of both the Boston and Merrimack Valley Chapters of the American Guild of Organists, having served both in several capacities, and was an active member of the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America, from which she recently received a citation for her many contributions to the art of carillon playing. Since 1969, she has been a valued Trustee of Methuen Memorial Music Hall in Methuen, Mass., serving for many years on the committee that plans and implements the summer recital series and other musical programs, frequently playing the Great Organ for weddings and other events. During the year preceding her death she was a productive member of the committee that organized a successful event commemorating the Music Hall's centennial year. Sally was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Haverhill, Mass., where her funeral service was held. Contributions in her memory may be sent to the church's Discretionary Fund, c/o Trinity Church at 26 White St., Haverhill, MA 01830, or to one of the organizations mentioned above.

—Barbara Owen





Scattered leaves ... from our Scrapbook "The Schoenstein speaks with a decidedly English accent. It firm has carved out an enviable provides the general reputation in recent tonal impression of a years for excellent vast cathedral organ Symphonic-style in what is really quite organs. This large a small building. 4-manual specimen Nigel Potts exploits its potential and masters is particularly wellequipped for its task, its tricks with aplomb as it was built primarin his new Herald ily to accompany the CD British Fantasies fine Anglo-Catholic and Fanfares]." liturgy at St. Paul's, Peter Jewkes and thus already Sydney Organ Journal SCHOENSTEIN & CO. Established in San Francisco • 1877 www.schoenstein.com (707) 747-5858

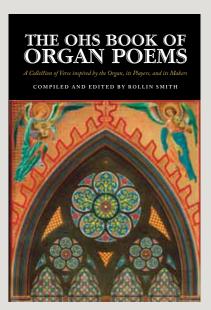


JUST RELEASED!

ORGANS IN THE LAND OF SUNSHINE: FIFTY-TWO YEARS OF ORGANS IN LOS ANGELES, 1880 – 1932

BY JAMES LEWIS

Sponsored in part by a grant from the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in celebration of the chapter's centennial anniversary, it chronicles the history of the King of Instruments in Los Angeles from the city's first organ built by San Francisco organbuilder Joseph Mayer for St. Vibiana's R.C. Cathedral to the E.M. Skinner instrument in the First Congregational Church. The book features brief histories and stoplists of organs in all the important churches by builders such as Bergstrom, E. & G.G. Hook, Jardine, Farrand & Votey, Hutchings, Kilgen, Austin, Estey, Möller, Casavant, Wangerin, Kimball, Skinner, and, of course, LA's first organbuilder, Murray M. Harris. Also included are residences, with Aeolian, Welte, Harris, Morton, and Estey organs; schools (high schools, USC's Bovard Auditorium, UCLA's Royce Hall), lodges, department stores, apartment houses, outdoor theaters, cemeteries, and, of course, major motion picture theaters with their Wurlitzers, Mortons, and Kimballs. A section on organs never built includes the three-page stoplist of the proposed Welte for the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. More than 35 superb period photographs illustrate this enjoyable historic travelogue through one of America's most fascinating cities. \$29.99



THE OHS BOOK OF ORGAN POEMS

COMPILED AND EDITED BY ROLLIN SMITH

Over seventy-five poems inspired by the organ have been assembled by Rollin Smith into this beautiful volume. Highlights include "The Organist in Heaven" by T.E. Brown, "Abt Vogler" by Robert Browning, "But Let My Due Feet Never Fail" by John Milton, "The Organ Blower" by Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr., and so many more. An excellent gift for yourself and your friends. \$15.99



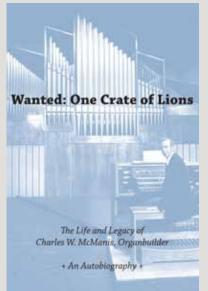
SCHOENSTEIN & CO. ORGANS BY ORPHA OCHSE

The latest publication in The OHS Press Monographs in American Organ History series is Orpha Ochse's definitive study, Schoenstein & Co. Organs. This work takes up where Louis Schoenstein's Memoirs of a San Francisco Organ Builder leaves off: with the sale of the firm to Jack Bethards in 1977. This study documents the last 30 years of the company known for overseeing the renovation of the Mormon Tabernacle organ and building the 130-rank organ for the Latter-day Saints Conference Center in Salt Lake City. A testament to the imagination and foresight of the company's president, Jack Bethards, Dr. Ochse's book describes in detail his many designs for special situations, including his tonal concept of symphonic organs, double expression, the French Choir Organ, and the "multum in parvo." An easy read for organ enthusiasts as well as organbuilders, Schoenstein & Co. Organs includes 41 high-quality illustrations and the stoplists of 23 organs. \$25.99

WANTED: ONE CRATE OF LIONS

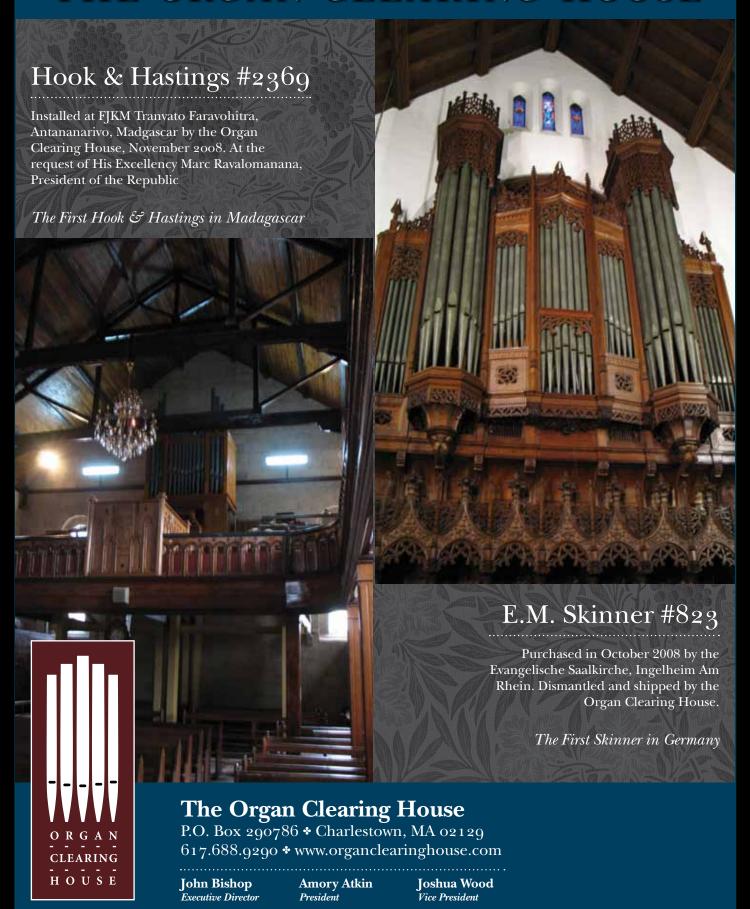
BY CHARLES W. MCMANIS

A first-person account of the post-war organ reform movement in the United States written by one of the most beloved organbuilders of his generation, this autobiography of Charles McManis chronicles a career from the author's formative years to his retirement in 1999. Covering a span of 75 years, the book provides not only technical details, but also a fascinating look into the life of the man himself. With many illustrations and chapters devoted to topics as diverse as voicing philosophy and McManis's wit and wisdom, the book also contains stoplists and photographs, as well as a bonus CD illustrating the sounds of McManis organs. \$35.00



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Organ Rolls Played on the Toledo Museum of Art PERISTYLE ORGAN

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32-page booklet. Contains an essay on the organ, an interview with Joe Dzeda and Nick Thompson-Allen about their lives as organ builders, a full stop list and tons of great photographs of the insides of this organ

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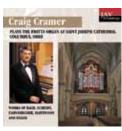
FAYTHE FREESE à l'Orgue de l' Eglise DE LA SAINT-TRINITÉ, PARIS

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20-page booklet. Contains a lengthy article about the organ, a short biographical essay on the artist and numerous photographs.



CRAIG CRAMER PLAYS THE FRITTS ORGAN AT SAINT JOSEPH CATHEDRAL, RC

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Bach: Prelude and Fugue in c minor, BWV 546; Scheidt: Variations on a Gagliarda of John Dowland; Anonymous: Batalha de 6. Tom; Zahnbrecher: Introduction, Scherzo and Fugue on B-E-A-T-E; Martinson: Incarnation Suite on Puer natus est nobis; Reger: Second Sonata, Op. 60

24-page booklet. There are detailed notes on the music, an essay by Paul Fritts on what inspired this organ and how he designed it, a full stop list and many photos of the organ being built and installed.

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STEPHEN THARP PLAYS SAINT BAVO, HAARLEM

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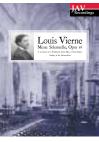
Stephen Tharp's newest CD release for JAV features the world-famous 1738 Christian Müller organ at the Church of St. Bavo in Haarlem, the Netherlands. Stephen Tharp demonstrates the organ's brilliance and color with music spanning several centuries. The release includes a 16-page booklet about the music, the instrument and the artist.

JAV 178



Toledo, Ohio Skinner Organ Company, Opus 603

Verdi: Grand March from Aida (Roll No. 637); (Roll No. 772)



Louis Vierne: MESSE SOLENNELLE

Includes all Prayers and Propers of the Easter Day Mass, organ improvisations & peal of the massive bells of Saint-Sulpice

Daniel Roth & Eric Lebrun, Organists

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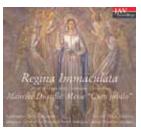
Edward Schaefer, Hervé Lamy, Charles Barbier, Soloists

Saint-Sulpice, Paris, France

2 CDs with a 64-page book containing essays by Mark Dwyer on the Vierne Mass and Camille Haedt on Parisian liturgical practices; full stop lists of both organs at Saint-Sulpice; stunning photographs; the full text from the Roman Missal with descriptions of how the music and liturgy integrate.

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TAV 179



Duruflé: Messe "Cum jubilo" WITH THE GREGORIAN CHANT PROPERS FOR THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Christopher Berru, Conductor Stephen Tharp, Organist

Seminary Choir of the Pontifical North American College Vatican City, Europe

32-page booklet in a digipack. There are essays on the Seminary's history; fascinating chronicles of Durufle's Mass and how this recording came to be; full text of all the Ordinary and Propers; dozens of recent and historic photos; and a full stop list of the 66-rank, 3-manual Mascioni Organ, Opus 630, built in 1953 and designed by Fernando Germani in the Seminary's Chapel, There are 6 improvisations by Stephen Tharp-including verses improvised in alternatim on Gloriosa dicta sunt de te, mode VIII, with the choir, as well as Processional and Sortie. The chant accompaniments were written by Christopher Berry in the style of Duruflé. The bells of the Seminary are even included!

JAV 181



CHRISTMAS CAROLS FOR ORGAN AND TRUMPET

Saint Patrick Cathedral, RC in New York City

Jennifer Pascual, organist *Angela Gosse & James Lake, trumpet

O Come, All Ye Faithful; Angels We Have Heard on High *; Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*; Sortie sur Venez, Divin Messie; Carol of the Bells; In the Bleak Midwinter; God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen; The Virgin Slumber Song; Infant Holy, Infant Lowly; Once in Royal David's City*; The First Nowell*; We Three Kings; Pastorale Gesù Bambino; Silent Night; Joy to the World!*; Tchaikovsky: Dance of the Sugar-Plum Fairies, Dance of the Reed-Flutes, Waltz of the Flowers; Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Jennifer Pascual, Director of Music at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in New York City, performs a selection of favorite, familiar Christmas carols and organ works appropriate for the season. The impressive 5-manual organ combines with trumpets on some of the Holiday's best-known melodies. A booklet including short essays on the organ, the Cathedral and the artists is included.

JAV 184