



PIPE ORGANS OF PHILADELPHIA

CELEBRATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Philadelphia, Pennsylvania is the city of brotherly love, home to the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the Constitution center, the Rocky Statue, the Art Museum, The Franklin Institute and—who could forget—the Philly Cheesesteak. It boasts the Reading Terminal Market, the Wanamaker building, an iconic city hall, the LOVE statue, and the Superbowl champion Philadelphia Eagles.

For travelers, Philadelphia sits on the Delaware River, just a bridge span from New Jersey, steps from the state of Delaware, hosts PHL airport and is easily accessible via Amtrak at William H. Gray/30th St Station.

And it is the site of great celebration in 2026—not the least of which because it marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, also known as the United States Semiquincentennial. This year-long celebration taking place across the country is a time to reflect on the contributions made by millions of citizens in order to form a more perfect union. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Organ Historical Society. A Septuagennial or Platinum Jubilee represents a significant milestone in the life of this totally unique institution. And what better way to celebrate than with a party!

Ten years ago, members of the OHS descended upon the city of brotherly love for the 60th anniversary convention.

In 2026, the city of Philadelphia is once again playing host to the summer event. Philadelphia will undoubtedly be one of the major tourist attractions for the country, organ devotees can look forward to revisiting cherished instruments and enjoy a listen to some newer installations. August 11–14 will be a time of celebration.

The Jubilee event begins on Tuesday afternoon with a short trip to Bryn Athyn Cathedral. The Cathedral sits atop a hill in the Pennypack Creek Valley. The main building was constructed between 1913 and 1928, with stained glass windows added in the mid-1940's. Sitting amid large and beautiful grounds, the Cathedral exudes serenity and tranquility. Inside, you will find the 46-rank **Skinner Organ Co.**, Op. 574 (1925) and Op. 682, **Kegg Pipe Organ Builders** (2014). We will then take a short hop over to Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel for a traditional Philly-style dinner. This gastronomic fete is to be followed by a recital by Katelyn Emerson playing the wonderful 47-rank **Austin Organs, Inc.**, Op. 2348 (1961).

The party continues on Wednesday with a full slate of venues, recitals, and performers. It is not often that an OHS event takes place at a brand-new installation. This year, the Curtis Institute of Music opens its doors for us to hear the brand-new **Dobson Pipe Organ Builders**, Op. 100. Alan Morrison from Curtis will lead us in a spectacular demonstration. Across town, Damin Spritzer will perform at historic Christ Church, featuring the **C.B. Fisk Inc.**, Op. 150 (2016). After lunch, our own OHS Biggs Scholars present two separate recitals. The first takes place at The Church of the Holy Trinity, Originally **M.P. Möller**, Op. 8128 (1950). The other will be heard at The First Presbyterian Church, **Reuter Organ Co.**, Op. 2199 (2000).

Later in the afternoon, Robert McCormick takes the bench on **Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co.**, Op. 948 (1937) at St. Mark's Episcopal church. Robert knows this instrument inside and out, having served as the Director of Music there for many years. A short bus ride from St. Mark's takes us to Girard College for

a pre-concert reception, followed by Nathan Laube on the monumental **Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co.**, Op. 872 (1933). With its 106 ranks and 6800+ pipes, this instrument is always a wonder to behold. The instrument was dedicated on May 8, 1933. Several tonal alterations have taken place over the decades and most recently Thompson-Allen Co. has done some additional restorative work.

The final day of the 70th anniversary jubilee begins with a birthday breakfast for all registered guests of the OHS. Following the morning celebration, partygoers will alternately visit the headquarters of the OHS at the STONELEIGH Estate in Villanova, PA as well as nearby Bryn Mawr Presbyterian, home of **Rieger Orgelbau**, (2005). At STONELEIGH, guests will learn about the OHS Library and Archives and be treated to a recital on the **Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co.**, Op. 878. The recital at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian, given by Co-Director of Music & Fine Arts James Kealey, will also include a hymn-sing in the tradition of OHS conventions.

Following a period of rest in the afternoon, guests will depart for the premier concert hall in Philadelphia—the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. A gala banquet will take place there, followed by a recital on the **Dobson Pipe Organ Builders**, Op. 76 (2006). Immediately after the recital, everyone will be treated to a gala reception including champagne, and cake!

A festive Postlude Day invites you to go to Longwood Gardens for a recital by Peter Richard Conte on the Robert M. Turner 2001, originally **The Aeolian Co.**, No. 1726 (1930). Lunch and a garden tour are included with this day.

Dust off your party clothes, save the dates on your calendar, and prepare to visit Philadelphia this coming August for what undoubtedly will be THE event of the year. The OHS turns seventy years old, and what better way to celebrate than to attend our delicious buffet of organ recitals.

And don't forget—we will have CAKE!

HILBUS CABINET ORGAN TO BE UNVEILED AT STONELEIGH



This rare ca. 1815 Hilbus chamber organ is now the property of the OHS. It has received a meticulous multi-year restoration according to the highest archival standards by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders and S.L. Huntington & Co. This priceless artifact has a history that peripherally connects it to the pioneering leaders of the young United States, and it is especially fitting that the organ will be unveiled to the membership in a festive celebration at STONELEIGH in Pennsylvania during the 250th Semi-quincentennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence!

This organ has had a colorful history, almost none of it true. The earliest legend that came with the organ, was that it was used on a steamship taking passengers between Washington D.C. and Boston, and rolled around the audience room during rough voyages, which is why the pipes were so badly mangled.

In actuality, the organ was the property of William Cranch Sr. (1769–1855). Cranch was good friends with George Washington, was appointed to the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia by President John Adams and elevated to Chief Justice by President Thomas Jefferson. The judge won the organ in 1824 in a raffle. The organ remained in the family until the death of his granddaughter in 1936. After being bought and sold twice more, it was given to the Strawberry Banke Museum in 1973. The organ remained in storage until the Museum deaccessioned the organ in 2017 and donated it the Organ Historical Society. Family legend said William played the organ as a teenager living at his father's house in Braintree, Mass. (he may have played an organ in his father's house, but not this one), and the heavily damaged condition of the pipework was ascribed to Cranch grandchildren who allegedly used the pipes as toy whistles—in this case probably more truth than legend.

The organ was assumed to be built by Jacob Hilbus, but we were doubtful. The simple organ case was nearly identical to chamber organs built by John Avery of London around the turn of the 19th century. There was no nameplate, nor could we find a signature anywhere in the organ. We traveled to Broad Creek, Maryland to study an authenticated Hilbus, itself a rebuild of an 18th century organ by Snetzler, taking note of the minutest details and construction marks. The owners allowed us to take minute scrapings of the pipe metal for analysis. We also took scrapings of the OHS organ's pipework and three

lead bellows weights and found the metal to be very similar with a surprisingly high silver content. We used electron microscope analysis of the pallet covering which was unlike anything we had seen before (likely a product of age) as well as a minute scrap of the bellows leather along with various kinds of felt—the pallet coverings looked more like a dense felt than leather. The analysis came back that the two samples were indeed sheepskin. We were allowed the use of a scope to see inside the double-rise reservoir, and low and behold, there was Hilbus' signature, authenticated by a hand-writing expert after comparing it to the Broad Brook signature.

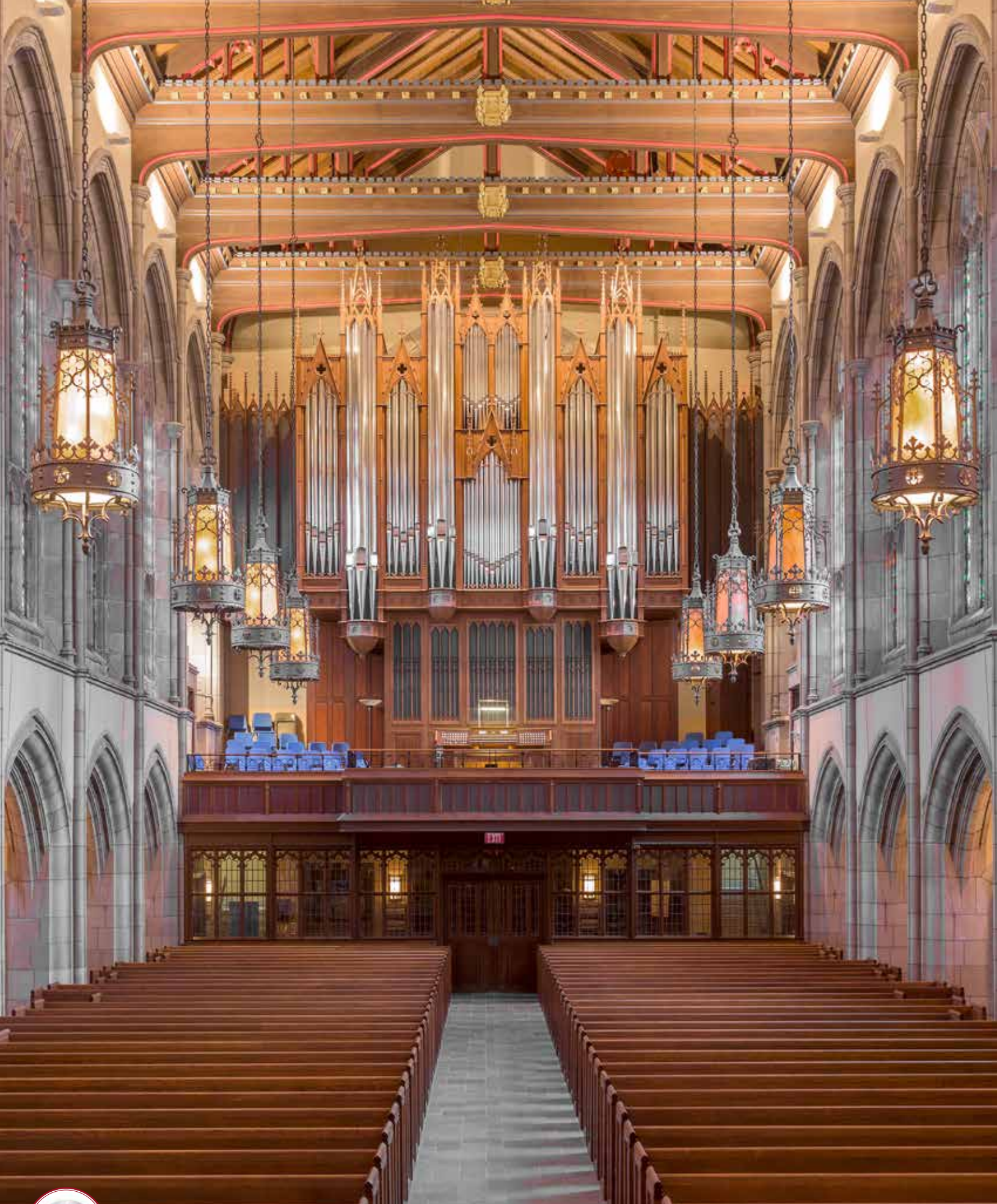
Cranch had a niece who was an accomplished artist and sketched typical household life down to the smallest detail, such as the decoration of the chamber pot in one of the bedrooms. In

her preserved folio of drawings were found two astounding images of the organ, one a lazy summer afternoon with the family on the porch, with the organ seen through the wavy glass of a window. In the most exciting drawing of all was a portrait of a family evening. In one area people were sitting having conversation, another corner had family around a table playing cards, but the most shocking discovery of all, was the organ being played while family members danced. This not only showed the long pumping foot pedal with the player's leg high in the air on the upstroke, but the detail even showed the two stop-action pedals (this two-stop organ has no draw-knobs). The detail of special interest to us, was the organist stool about which we hadn't a clue but were charged with providing. This is the only image anyone has ever seen, of a pre-Civil War parlor pipe organ

in use, answering a crucial question—how were they actually used?

The restoration of this organ and its supporting documentation is the most thorough accomplished to date in the U.S., although such granular research, attention to the minutest detail of restoration, and thorough documentation is routinely part of historic restoration in Europe. This organ's once-removed association with the founding fathers of this great country makes this an especially precious musical artifact and a true jewel in the OHS crown. It is doubling fitting that the unveiling to the membership of this priceless musical instrument will take place August 2026 as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary in the city of its birth.





Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church ~ Bryn Mawr
Rieger Orgelbau (2005)

PHOTO LEN LEVASSEUR

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 2026

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				New Year's Day		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Martin Luther King Jr. Day					
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

NOW AVAILABLE: RIEGER AND PETTY-MADDEN ORGAN SAMPLESETS

BMPC's Sanctuary and Chapel organs,
now for your Hauptwerk setup. WWW.EVENSONGMUSIC.NET



bmpc.org

**JEFFREY
BRILLHART**

Director of Music
& Fine Arts

**JAMES
KEALEY**

Co-Director of
Music & Fine Arts

**DANIEL
CARROLL**

Organ Scholar
Recipient of the Curtis Institute of
Music Fellowship

**TORI
FISHER**

Administrative
Coordinator



Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center ~ Philadelphia

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders OPUS 76 (2006)

PHOTO LEN LEVASSEUR

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



VERSATILE ADAPTIVE COMPETITIVE

A UNIQUE MULTI-FACETED APPROACH
TO ORGAN EDUCATION

INQUIRE TODAY TO BECOME A FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, OR INTENSIVE STUDENT

AmericanOrganAcademy.com

CHANGING LIVES. CREATING FUTURES.



Christ Church ~ Philadelphia
C.B. Fisk Inc. OPUS 150 (2018)

PHOTO DANA SIGALL

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

April 2026

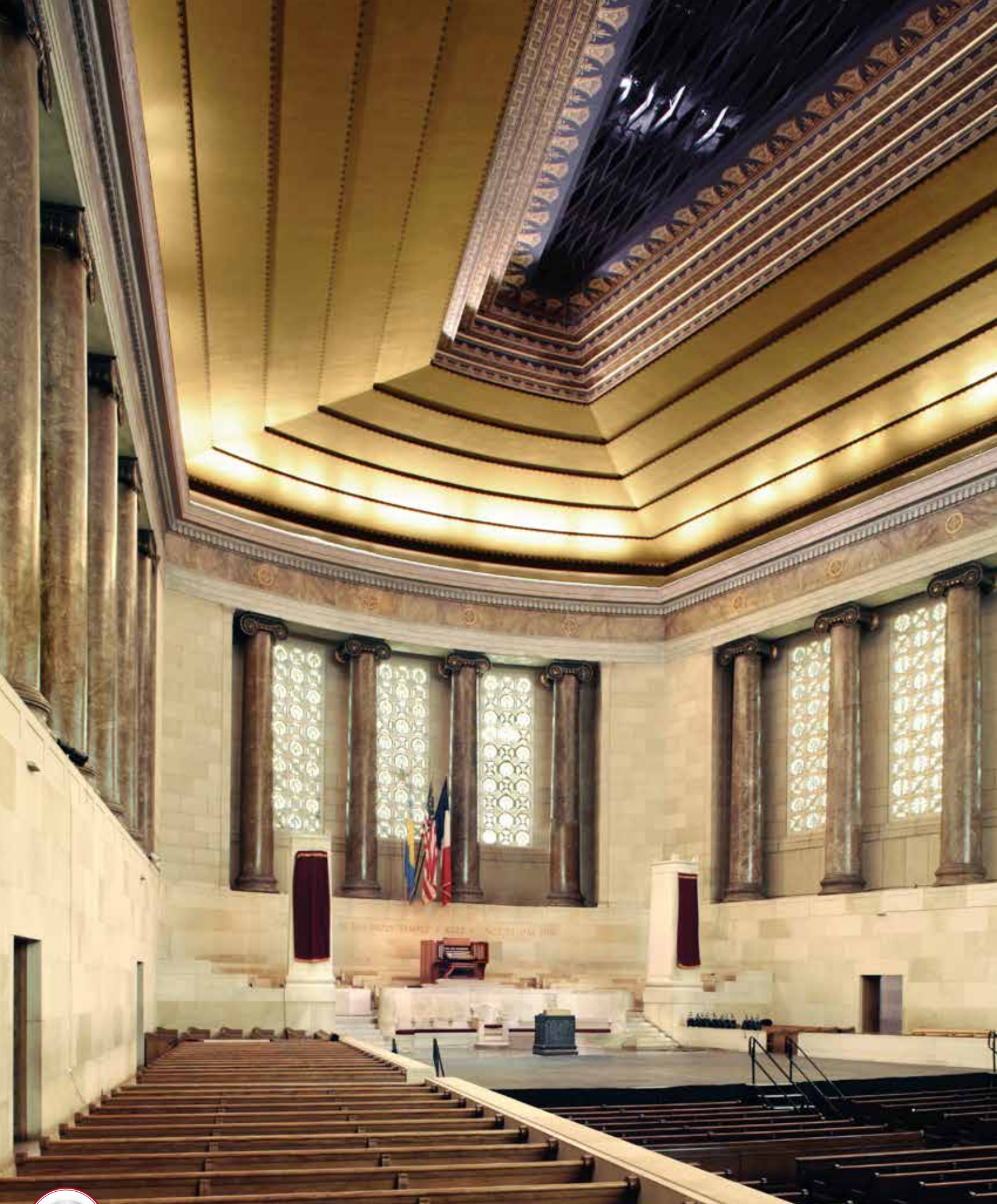
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>OHS Biggs Scholars Applications Due</p> <p>1</p>	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Saving Begins						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		St. Patrick's Day				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



www.cbfisk.com +1 978 314-0856

Fisk



Girard College Chapel ~ Philadelphia

Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co. OPUS 872 (1933)

PHOTO WILLIAM T. VAN PELT

March 2026

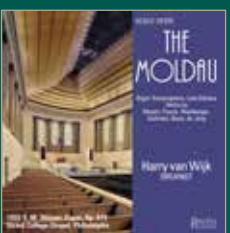
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

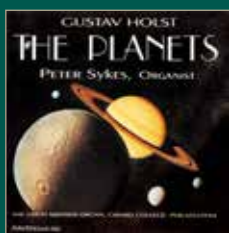
April 2026

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 April Fool's Day	2 Passover Begins Maundy Thursday	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter	6 Easter Monday	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Thomas Jefferson's Birthday	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		




RAVENC.D.COM • 804-355-6386 • BOX 25111 RICHMOND VA 23261

RAVEN CDS ARE SHIPPED AT NO CHARGE TO OUR CUSTOMERS



St. Mark's Episcopal Church ~ Philadelphia
Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co. OPUS 948 (1937)

PHOTO LEN LEVASSEUR

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Loyalty Day	
3	4	5	6	7	 8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Mother's Day						Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Memorial Day					



GALA

2026

American Guild of Organists

ENDOWMENT FUND DISTINGUISHED ARTIST AWARD
CONCERT AND GALA BENEFIT RECEPTION

HONORING

CRAIG PHILLIPS

Friday, May 8 | All Saints' Church | Beverly Hills

www.agohq.org/2026-gala



Longwood Gardens ~ Kennett Square
The Aeolian Co. NO. 1726 (1930)

PHOTO LEN LEVASSEUR

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18	19 Juneteenth	20
21 Father's Day	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				




www.arschopp.com

A.R. SCHOPPS SONS, INC.



Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel ~ Elkins Park
Austin Organs, Inc. OPUS 2348 (1961)

PHOTO JOSEPH ROUTON

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 Parents' Day	27	28	29	30	31	



ORGANMASTER SHOES

Confident pedal work comes with practice
and the right shoes on the pedals.



Online: organmastershoes.com Toll free: 888.773.0066 Email: info@organmastershoes.com



First Presbyterian Church ~ Philadelphia

Reuter Organ Company

OPUS 2199 (2000)

PHOTO JOSEPH ROUTON

July 2026

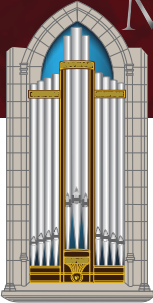
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<div>  <div> AUGUST 11-13 OHS SEVENTIETH ANNIVERSARY PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA </div> </div>						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



MESSRS. CZELUSNIAK ET DUGAL, INC.

ORGAN BUILDERS

Rebuilding, Restoration & Maintenance
Northampton, Massachusetts

CZELUSNIAKDUGAL.COM | CZELUSNIAK@VERIZON.NET



Field Concert Hall ~ Curtis Institute of Music ~ Philadelphia

Dobson Pipe Organ Builders OPUS 100 (2026)

PHOTO MARGO REED

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12 Rosh Hashanah
13 National Grandparents Day	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Yom Kippur	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

DOBSON

PIPE ORGAN BUILDERS, LTD.

712.464.8065 ▪ P.O. Box 25 ▪ Lake City, Iowa 51449
www.dobsonorgan.com ▪ info@dobsonorgan.com





Bryn Athyn Cathedral ~ Bryn Athyn
Kegg Pipe Organ Builders (2014)

PHOTO LEN LEVASSEUR

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2026

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31 Halloween





New Organs



Restorations



Respectful Rebuilds

Serving discerning musicians
and
The King of Instruments
since 1985

www.keggorgan.com



Stoneleigh ~ Villanova

Aeolian-Skinner Organ Co. NO. 878 (1931)

PHOTO JOSEPH ROUTON

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daylight Saving Ends						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Veterans Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Thanksgiving Day		
29	30					
First Sunday of Advent						



TOTAL PIPE ORGAN RESOURCES



2320 West 50th Street
Erie, PA 16506
www.organsupply.com

Order Line: 800/458-0289
Tech Line: 800/374-3674
Fax Line: 814/838-0349
Voice Line: 814/835-2244



The Church of the Holy Trinity ~ Philadelphia
M.P. Möller OPUS 8128 (1950)

PHOTO JOSEPH ROUTON

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026

January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

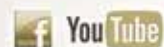
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
					Hanukkah Begins	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
					Christmas Day	
27	28	29	30	31		
				New Year's Eve		



Meeting the needs of organbuilding clients for over one-hundred and fifty years, Schantz Organ Company provides a tailored, artistic response relying upon time-honored mechanisms and design principles.

Not simply an assembler of components, our artisans creatively adapt to each project's parameters – be that a newly commissioned instrument, the rebuild and adaptation of a long-serving example, or a strict historic restoration.

A celebrated standard in pipe organ since 1873. Contact us today and find an example near you.



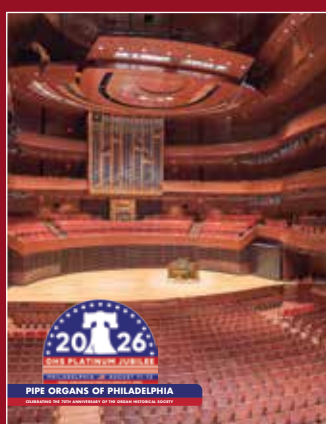
P.O. Box 156
Orrville, Ohio 44667
800-416-7426
info@schantzorgan.com
www.schantzorgan.com



The Organ Historical Society's Mission Statement

The Organ Historical Society enriches public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the pipe organ, particularly its place in history and culture.

Visit OrganHistoricalSociety.org or call 484.488.PIPE (7473) today.



Calendar Credits

CALENDAR DESIGN Len Levasseur

We wish to express thanks to each of our sponsors, without whose financial support this project would not be possible. The OHS endorses only the art of the pipe organ — not any specific advertiser within this publication.

2026 OHS CALENDAR © ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY



COVER Marian Anderson Hall at the Kimmel Center ~ Philadelphia
Dobson Pipe Organ Builders, Opus 76 (2006)
PHOTO Len Levasseur

2026.OrganHistoricalSociety.org