
Pipe Lines

February 2011

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www.southernplainsago.org



A Note From the Dean

Greetings to all! This time of year has always seemed a little odd to me...we have just finished, and recovered from, the hectic Christmas season; this year we have an extra long season of Epiphany; and for those of us in the world of academics, we are beginning a new semester. A time for the past, the present and the future...a time for reflection. With that said, I apologize in advance for climbing on my soapbox, but...

In today's age of 24 hour news programs, it seems as if we are constantly being bombarded with bad news. This past week I was reminded that this has even hit the world of organ music. The Organ Historical Society chat has been about the demise of organ building as the Wicks Organ Company has ceased operations. "What will happen when all of the organs disappear?" And, at the Oklahoma Music Educators Association All-State choir performance, a colleague informed me that young people aren't learning how to play the organ. I took great pleasure in telling him how wrong he is...at least here in our region! Look at the growing organ departments at our colleges and universities, the recently held competition

for high school students at Oklahoma City University, and the number of young people, many from the University of Oklahoma, who will be competing in the RCYO/Quimby competition, just to name a few. While there is more that can and should be done, we as a profession are not done!

Check out our calendar of upcoming events to see all of the opportunities for concerts, hymn festivals and workshops. And don't forget to check out the website for the Region VII convention to be held in OKC this summer. More signs that organ music in the Southern Plains lives on! Aren't you glad to hear that positive news?!

Peace,
Vicki Schaeffer
Dean, Southern Plains AGO

Out and About

Are you giving a recital or lecture? Did you give one? Have you received an award? Scholarship? Let us know so we can print it here in future issues!

Tulsa—

On January 4 member Vicki Schaeffer presented a recital as part of the Tuesdays at trinity recital series. Members Jaime Carini and Paul Watkins will present recitals

in the series on May 17 and May 31 respectively. For more information see www.trinitytulsa.org/tuesdays-at-trinity/

OKC—

On January 29th Members John Schwandt and Vicki Schaeffer assisted in adjudicating the Oklahoma City University High School Organ Competition organized by OCU Organ Professor Melissa Plamann—also a member of our Chapter.

Mequon, Wisconsin—

On Sunday February 6 Member Craig Sproat will present an organ recital at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Getting to Know You

(Each month *Pipe Lines* will run a short article introducing us to a member of our chapter. This month we meet our sub dean...)

Jeremy Wance

Jeremy Wance, a native of Norman, began studying the pipe organ at the age of twelve. His first teacher was Mary Doezema, the organist at McFarlin Memorial United Methodist Church in Norman. During that time, he met the organbuilder, Fritz Noack, and assisted him on maintenance visits to McFarlin. Jeremy would subsequently study organ under Dr. Clark Kelly, now Emeritus Professor of Organ at the University of Oklahoma. Throughout his high school years, Jeremy presided over an organ of precarious disposition in the chapel of his school. While helping to maintain the instrument, he was asked frequently to educate students, teachers and parents in the basics of its workings.

Jeremy earned his Bachelor of Musical Arts degree in Voice, with a minor

in German at the University of Oklahoma. His vocal studies were primarily under Dr. Dolores Leffingwell, and he sang numerous principal roles with the University of Oklahoma Opera Theatre.

Jeremy's studies have taken him to Braunschweig, Germany; Graz, Austria, Maribor and Ljubljana, Slovenia; and four universities in China. During his time in Austria, Jeremy studied International Human Rights Law and reported on operatic performances from Vienna, Graz and Geneva. As a translator, he is published in multiple volumes of the Repertoire Explorer series of Musikproduktion Höflich, Munich.

After working in the private sector for Seagate Industries, Jeremy returned to OU for graduate work in Counseling Psychology. With the founding of the American Organ Institute, Jeremy was given the opportunity to immerse himself in the workings of the pipe organ. In addition to his work in the AOI Pipe Shop, Jeremy collaborated with the Institute's director, Dr. John Schwandt, in devising a Master's Degree course of study in Organ Technology through the College of Liberal Studies.

Events

“Singing Through the Ages: A Festival of Hymns”

On Saturday, Feb. 5 at 3 p.m. The Southern Plains chapter of the AGO will take this year's hymn festival on the road to First Baptist Church of Lawton. The program features the organ and congregational singing and will explore the development of hymnody over the centuries. Organists from the Guild as well as local organists will be playing, and a choir composed of area musicians will lead the singing. The event is free and open to the public.

Past:

September 3, 8:00 p.m.

Christoph Grohmann, Organist. OU Gothic Hall

September 25, 2:00 p.m.

Hymn Festival. St. Mark the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Norman. Free to public.

October 21, 7:00 p.m.

Roland Digital Organ Demonstration with Hector Olivera. St. Michael's, Norman.

October 29, 7:00 p.m.

Spooktacular! McFarlin UMC, Norman. Free to public.

November 5, 8:00 p.m.

Nathan Laube, Organist. OU Gothic Hall, (Pre-concert dinner for AGO members)

November 20, 10:00 a.m. to noon

Organ maintenance 101 or "The F key is out." Hands-on workshop at the American Organ Institute Shop.

December 10, 8:00 p.m.

"Holiday Pipes," John D. Schwandt, Organist. OU Gothic Hall, (Pre-concert dinner for AGO members)

January 28, 7:00 p.m.

Social event at the home of Dr. Vicki J. Schaeffer

Upcoming:

February 5, 2:00 p.m.

Hymn Festival. First Baptist Church, Lawton, Free to public.

March 26, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Organ music exchange/Repertoire Workshop/Church Music panel discussion. First Christian Church, Norman.

April 29

Wilma Jensen, Organist. Westminster Presbyterian Church, OKC. Joint pre-concert dinner with Oklahoma City AGO

Chapter.

May 7, 3:00 p.m.

Hymn Festival, McAlester, Free to public.

American Organ Institute Corner

The AOI is pleased to welcome two new Faculty members to its ranks this semester! Dr. Vicki Schaeffer is offering a church music practicum course and Professor Craig Sproat is offering courses in hymnody, and organ literature.

Upcoming AOI Events

February 26, 8:00 p.m.

Simon Gledhill, Pops Concert

March 3, 8:00 p.m.

Adam Pajan, Degree Recital

March 20 4 p.m.

Jaime Carini, Degree Recital

March 31 6:00 p.m.

Julie Huang, Degree Recital

April 23, 6:00 p.m.

Rachel Foster, Degree Recital

April 23, 8:00 p.m.

Paul Watkins, Degree Recital

April 29, 8:00 p.m.

Tara Partington, Degree Recital

June 11, 8:00 p.m.

Jelani Eddington and John Schwandt, AOI Showcase Concert.

All events to be held in Catlett Music Center.

See <http://aoi.ou.edu> for details.

Available Substitutes

Rachel Foster

Familiar with most denominations and liturgies. Organist/Choirmaster and proficient on piano. (330)-329-9876 or Rachel.j.foster-1@ou.edu

Announcements

Region VII Convention

The Oklahoma City Chapter is hosting our regional convention for 2011. Mark your calendars for "Wind and Fire" June 12-15. Check www.okcago.org for more information.

The Board

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Pipe Lines will be published at the beginning of each month. Please submit any material for the February issue to the editor (Rachel Foster—rachel.j.foster-1@ou.edu) by February 21.
