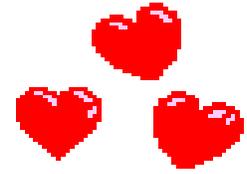


The Clarion



February 2008

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Members Recital to feature works by women composers

The Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will present a Members Recital, Tuesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m., First Pentecostal Church, 1401 Calvary Road, North Little Rock. The program, which is free and open to all, will feature works by women composers.

Dr. Kay McAfee, retired Professor of Organ, Henderson State University, and Organist at First United Methodist Church, Arkadelphia, has put together a wonderful program featuring a variety of works and styles.

The program will include "Preludio Festivo" by Sharon Elery Rogers performed by Betty Anderson; "Sonata in e minor" by Virginia Strohmeier-Miles performed by the composer; "Simple Gifts" by Susan Rucker and "Juliate" by Emma Lou Deimer performed by Betty Cohen; "Jesus the Very Thought of Thee," "Bread of the World in Mercy Broken," and "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" by Emma Lou Deimer performed by Jess Anthony; "Fugue on *Hanover*" and "Maestoso in d minor" by Elizabeth Stirling performed by Tim Allen; "Suite for

Organ" by Florence Price performed by Bob Bidewell; "Partita on *Praise My Soul the King of Heaven*" by Emily Maxson Porter performed by Phil Bordeleau; and "Choral Preludes on Gregorian Themes, Op. 8" by Jeanne Demmessieux performed by Dr. Kay McAfee.

The performers will be featured on the four-manual Johannes Organ.

A punchbowl for members and guests will be held at 6:00 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30. Information regarding dinner reservations may be found below.

AGO Certification

Several members of our Chapter have attained the *Service Playing Certificate* and *Colleague Certificate* from the American Guild of Organists. Have you thought about certification? Those who have will tell you what a rewarding experience it is. Check out the past issues of *The American Organist* for more details.

Dinner Reservations and Directions to FPC/NLR

Reservations for the dinner may be made by calling Ann Johnston at (501) 661-1943 or by emailing: don_annjohnston@sbcglobal.net

Deadline for reservations is NOON, Thursday, February 7. Reservations are \$10.00 per person.

Directions for parking for the Tuesday evening dinner:

Park in the west parking lot and enter the building

through the west portico door. Follow the signs to the atrium of Building 1 (east building), where the punchbowl will be located. Dinner will be served in the adjacent dining hall.

Directions to 1401 Calvary Road:

* **I-40 East:** Exit 154 (North Hills Blvd), Access Calvary Rd from North

Hills.

***I-40 West:** Exit 155 to 67/167 North, Exit 1b (McCain Blvd W), Follow to North Hills Blvd, then to Calvary Rd.

***AR 67/167 South:** Exit 1 (McCain Blvd), Follow McCain to North Hills Blvd, then to Calvary Rd.

From the Dean

The January Organ and Orchestra program was a rousing success. Many, many thanks to the players/singer/conductors involved. The orchestra was terrific. The playing was wonderful, and the Bach with the small ensemble was a lovely way to establish the evening.

For those who missed this first-ever programming, you missed something amazing. The Cathedral of Saint Andrew was fairly full with audience from all walks. The thrilling Rheinberger *Organ Sonata in g minor*, as the program closer, was breath taking. The audience rose to their feet in a cheer of triumph.

Thank you Dr. Richard Hixson for your underwriting of this unique program. We introduced a new audi-

ence to the thrill of the pipe organ that evening.

In the printed program we included an invitation to join us for our February program as well. I am delighted to be thinking about the new audience members we may cull from this first event, and bringing them to additional events.

Our February event is likewise a combination of "firsts" for our chapter. The repertoire is organ music by women composers. For sometime we have been musing about doing such an event and I am delighted that Kay McAfee has organized a wonderful grouping of musicians and repertoire for this event.

Also a first-ever, will be the venue. We have been invited by members Tim Mullinax

and David Beall, organists of the First Pentecostal Church of North Little Rock, to present our program in their beautiful church. For those who may not know it by name, it is the large church on I-40 at the juncture of I-30.

Please join us and plan to bring friends!

Our program will begin at 7:30 PM. A reminder that we have been alternating between Friday evenings at 8 PM as well as Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in order to better serve the membership at large. Our Friday audiences are continuing to grow but we wish to remain loyal to those who cannot attend our Friday events.

Phil Bordeleau; Dean

"The January Organ and Orchestra program was a rousing success."

Minutes from the November 2007 and January 2008 Meetings

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

The meeting, at Pulaski Heights UMC/LR, was called to order. Betty Deislinger read the treasurer's report.

Our dean, Phil, asked for a head count for the Michael Kleinschmidt hymn playing workshop on Saturday, November 17. Guests and new members were introduced.

The December meeting will be at Bob Bidewell's home in North Little Rock. It will actually be a holiday party.

The yearbook will be ready December 1.

The annual Advent Lessons and Carols at St. Andrew's Cathedral will be on December 2. Other Advent and Christmas programs were mentioned.

Larry Kirscher will act as agent for the transfer of endowment funds from A. G. Edwards to the

Arkansas Community Foundation, estate planning, planned giving, bequests, etc.

The January meeting will be at St. Andrew's Cathedral, with organ and orchestra. This will be funded partly with a grant from the Arkansas Arts Council.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18

The meeting, at the Cathedral of St. Andrew/LR, was called to order (more or less). Guests were introduced.

The executive committee voted to keep a minimum of \$1000 in the Bank of Little Rock checking account to pay smaller bills or other amounts. Also we will leave \$4500 in the A. G. Edwards money market account. (A. G. Edwards seemed to pay the highest interest rate.) The rest of our funds will go into the Arkansas Community Foundation,

as voted on by the executive committee in November.

The yearbooks are ready. Everyone must sign for a yearbook when they pick up one.

There will be information on the AGO at the church door tonight for people to pick up as they come in.

Phil Bordeleau gave a little more info about the ACF.

The February meeting will be a members' recital at First Pentecostal Church in North Little Rock.

Ann and Sylvia were thanked for their wonderful meal they served us. (Aren't their rolls heavenly?)

The meeting was adjourned, and we went to the sanctuary for a great program of organ and orchestra music.

Respectfully Submitted by Betty Anderson, Secretary

Jean Langlais in Kansas City - Musings by Virginia Strohmeyer-Miles

For those who were able to attend Philip Scriven's program at Trinity Cathedral in October, you may remember that he quoted the following information from *The American Organist*:

Langlais wrote: "After a sixteen hour trip, we arrived in Kansas City to cold and snow. Horrible organ, no mixture on the Great, an unusable one in the Swell, no 4' in the Pedal, two general combinations that don't capture the couplers, dead notes everywhere, stops that don't come on, others that come on when you don't want them, abominable sounding, out-of-tune instrument. I fume openly and assert that one does not invite somebody to play on such an organ. All the same, I shall play the best I can, but without joy, and without stage fright either." (February 2007 TAO, p. 62)

Virginia Strohmeyer-Miles, a member of our chapter, writes: The dead giveaway in this description was reference to the two general pistons. The organ is the 1912 E.M. Skinner, opus 190, in the Grand Avenue Temple (Methodist) in Kansas City, Missouri. The program Langlais played was on Sunday, January 22, 1956, 4:30 p.m. The program included music of Buxtehude, Bach, Franck, Tournemire, Fieury, and Langlais. The concert ended with an improvisation on submitted themes.

Langlais attended the National Institute for the Young Blind in Paris, later went to the Paris Conservatory of Music where he studied with Marcel Dupré and Paul Dukas. (*Kansas City Star*, January 22, 1956)

A rave review of the organ recital was labeled as "impressive," and a crowd of 1,000 heard the famous organist. There were only two applause breaks, one at intermission and another at the close after he had improvised on two submitted themes. Departing from church formality, he played an encore on the lively "Caprice" by Clerambault.

J. Max Kruwel, Minister of Music at the Grand Avenue Methodist Church submitted a theme in F Major and Graham Cook, Minister of Music at the Broadway Methodist Church submitted a short theme in c minor to Langlais for improvising. These themes were played beforehand for Langlais and he wrote them down in his Braille notebook. Kruwel told the audience that Langlais would do some elaborating on the two themes. The review described the results as amazing and stated that the finished product had the logic and detail of a tone poem that would take a composer weeks of effort. The c minor theme was played in low pedal tones and the F Major them was played on the clarient stop high up the scale. This was followed by variations, intermingling of themes, and at last a clear crisp climax. (*Kansas City Times*, January 23, 1956)

Strohmeyer-Miles writes that this four-manual, fifty-six rank, unaltered Skinner organ is a true joy to play in spite of Mr. Langlais' not-so-complimentary description of it. True, there are only two general pistons, but there are pistons for each of the four manuals. This organ boasts a 32' wood open diapason that is awesome. The tonal quality is superb as the sounds that pour forth from this instrument reaches to the very depth of the listener's soul. The instrument is still played every Sunday.

Other famous organists who played solo recitals around this same time were Virgil Fox, Richard Ellsasser and Fernando Germani.

Many thanks to Virginia for this article. If you have musings you'd like to include in *The Clarion*, please send them to the Editor at bbidewell@sbeglobal.net

Are you planning to attending the National AGO Convention in Minneapolis/ St. Paul (June 22-26, 2008)? More information may be found at www.agohq.org

**"A crowd of a
1,000 heard the
famous organist."**



**The Central Arkansas Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists**

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Upcoming Events

***Thursday, February 21 - A Journey through Russia and Great Britain with The Little Rock Wind Symphony. Dr. Karen Fannin, conductor. Guest soloists Lorraine Duso, oboe, and Bob Bidewell, organ. 7:30 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock. Tickets are \$10.00; \$8.00 Seniors; \$5.00 Students. www.littlerockwindsymphony.org**

***Sunday, March 2 - Music for Trumpets and Organ. H.M. Lewis and Steve Cohen, trumpets; Betty Cohen, organ. 3:00 p.m. Greene Chapel, Hendrix College, Conway. The program is free and open to all.**

***Friday, March 7 - Haydn's *Timpani Mass* with the Arkansas Chamber Singers. Dr. John Erwin, conductor. 7:30 p.m. St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Tickets are \$15.00; \$10.00 Seniors and Students. www.ar-chambersingers.org**

***Monday, March 31 - Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault in Concert. 7:30 p.m. Greene Chapel, Hendrix College, Conway (CACAGO dinner/program) The program is free and open to all.**

Chapter Officers 2007-2008

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