

# The Clarion

April 2008

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## Ellis Program to Feature Nathan Laube

The fifth annual organ concert honoring the life of Robert Ellis will feature young American organist Nathan Laube. The program will be held at Christ Episcopal Church, 5th and Scott Streets, Little Rock, Saturday, April 19, 2:00 p.m. A punchbowl and luncheon will precede the concert at 12:15 (Information concerning reservations may be found on Page 2). Madolyn Douglas Fallis, AGO Region VII Councillor, will address the combined meeting of the Central Arkansas, Fort Smith, and Northwest Arkansas Chapters of the AGO during the luncheon.

**NATHAN LAUBE** is a rising star among young classical musicians. A native of Chicago, Nathan began his music studies at age five. At age fifteen, he was accepted as a full scholarship student at the renowned Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. At age nineteen, he is a fourth year student of Alan Morrison (organ) and Susan Starr (piano).

In addition to his studies at The Curtis Institute, which upholds its weekly requirement of performing a new piece from memory, Nathan also maintains a rigorous performance schedule, including concerts in Jacksonville, Philadelphia, Trinity Church (New York City), and Princeton University.

### Program

Wir danken dir, Gott (BWV 29) - J.S. Bach/Transcribed by Nathan Laube

Toccata et Fuga in E (BWV 566) - J.S. Bach

Symphonie Gothique pour Grand Orgue, Op. 70 - Charles-Marie Widor

La Nativité du seigneur, Neuf méditations pour Orgue - Olivier Messiaen

Präludium in f-sharp (BuxWV 146) - Dieterich Buxtehude

Sonata Eroïca pour Grand Orgue, Op. 94 - Joseph Jongen

### Alternative Repertoire

Deuxième Fantaisie - Jehan Alain

Suite pour Orgue, Op. 5 - Maurice Duruflé



**Nathan Laube**

## Schedule/Luncheon Reservations for Saturday, April 19

**11:30 a.m. - Organ Demonstration and Chamber Tours. First Presbyterian Church, 9th and Scott Streets, Little Rock. Call 501-231-8835 if you have trouble entering the Sanctuary. Nichols & Simpson Organ - 2004, 3 manual, 46 stops/61 ranks**

**12:15 p.m. - Punch Bowl and Social Time. Christ Episcopal Church, 5th and Scott Streets, Little Rock**

**12:45 p.m. - Luncheon with Address by Madolyn Douglas Fallis, AGO Region VII Councillor. Christ Episcopal Church, 5th and Scott Streets, Little Rock**

**RESERVATIONS for the luncheon may be made by calling Ann Johnston at (501) 661-1943 or by emailing: [don\\_annjohnston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:don_annjohnston@sbcglobal.net)**

**Deadline for reservations is NOON, Wednesday, April 16**

**Reservations are \$10.00 per person**

**The luncheon will be prepared by Dawn Hook, who prepared the delicious menu for the Chapter Christmas Party.**

**2:00 p.m. - Organ Concert by Nathan Laube**

**A Reception will follow the concert**

*Nathan Laube has served as the Assistant Organist to Peter Conte at the Wannamaker Grand Court Organ in Philadelphia.*

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### From the Dean

Greetings all! Spring is here, Easter has passed. As we look ahead to spring and summer, it's a time to think about concluding our musical "seasons" for those with concert offerings or cyclic choral events or organ concerts. We were recently treated to the amazing artistry of the husband and wife duo of Raymond and Beth Chenault. Now we look ahead to an amazing rising star, Nathan Laube as our artist this month.

You can find additional information on Nathan elsewhere in the newsletter. This special Saturday afternoon offering will be the perfect spring offering nestled in the middle of the weekend to inspire us as we need that last "kick" to our work and our own artistry and ministry in music.

Once again we suggest you all bring friends of the music world, or young potential musicians who want to see someone close to their age playing the organ.

Of further note, elections of officers will be also coming upon us. We ask that you all work in a timely manner to ensure a smooth election process.

It is also to be stressed now that the dues for our chapter lapse July 1. We will be sending out renewals soon in order to be certain that our yearbook will be current and available at the beginning of the fall. Delays last year were caused in part due to slow responses from the membership.

A small pitch if I may..... we need someone who is not afraid to make phone calls, to head the phone tree for reservations. Ann Johnston who has so capably helped us in so many ways, has had to give up her position. If there is someone out there with a pleasant voice and a willingness to follow through and make sure the members attend the meetings, I would be grateful if they would identify themselves to me!

Thanks - Phil Bordeleau, Dean

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## Elizabeth Stirling - A Woman Before Her Time

Judith (Judy) Barger, parishioner at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, has written a biography of 19th-century British composer Elizabeth Stirling. Judy introduced Stirling's music to Cathedral Organist/Choirmaster Timothy Allen and he performed the well-crafted *Fugue on "Hanover"* for the recent member's recital which focused on music by women composers. Judy's book receives an excellent review in the February issue of *The American Organist* (p. 97). I asked her to write of her research and interest in Elizabeth Stirling for our chapter. Congratulations to Judy on this notable and excellent achievement. -Kay McAfee

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### ELIZABETH STIRLING

Many years ago when researching Samuel Wesley and the introduction of Bach's organ music into England, I came across the name of Elizabeth Stirling (1819-1895) in connection with a recital she gave of Bach's major organ works at Saint Katherine's, Regent's Park, London in 1837. The critic for the *Musical World* praised the "extraordinary, almost unrivalled talent" of the eighteen-year-old recitalist, "received with general astonishment," and added: "We hope to see justice done to Miss Stirling. The prejudice against *lady organists* cannot remain, with such an example opposed to it." ("Organ Performance," 6 (1837): 174) My desire to learn more about this remarkable organist with an apparently phenomenal pedal technique led to doctoral research culminating in my book *Elizabeth Stirling and the Musical Life of Female Organists in Nineteenth-Century England* (Ashgate 2007).

At age twelve Stirling began organ lessons with William B. Wilson in Greenwich, where she was born and raised. When her family moved to Poplar a year later, she continued her organ studies with Edward Holmes, organist at All Saints Poplar, where Stirling later held the organist post beginning in 1839. Stirling studied harmony privately with James Alexander Hamilton and with George MacFarren and in 1856 aspired to an Oxford degree in music denied her because no precedent existed for awarding a degree to a woman. Stirling nevertheless continued her music career and was remembered in the *Church Musician* shortly after her death as "the only lady organist who ever got near 'front rank' excellence." ("Elizabeth Stirling," 5 (1895): 86) She was elected organist of Saint Andrew Undershaft in the City of London in 1858, married Frederick Albert Bridge in 1863, collaborated with him on popular entertainments as pianist, was actively involved as organist for the popular Tonic Sol-fa Association, and began composing for voice and for organ. Her part song "All among the Barley" was widely sung throughout the British Isles. Her *Six Pedal Fugues* and *Eight Slow Movements* for organ were much publicized and apparently played by England's organists. Both collections are available in modern editions edited by Barbara Harbach (Vivace 1995). Stirling's organ works, which show the musical influence of Bach and Mendelssohn, were favorably reviewed and put her in the vanguard of England's modern composers for the organ, securing her legacy, however modest, in music.

Although the best known "lady organist," Stirling was one of hundreds of women in nineteenth-century England who served as organists in England's churches throughout the nineteenth century despite a number of churches that declared "ladies not eligible" for the position. Their accomplishments are an inspiration to organists who followed in their footsteps. A review and more information about my book are found in the current issue of *The American Organist*. (Barbara Owen, February 2008, 97-98)

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### Email Address and Postal Address Changes

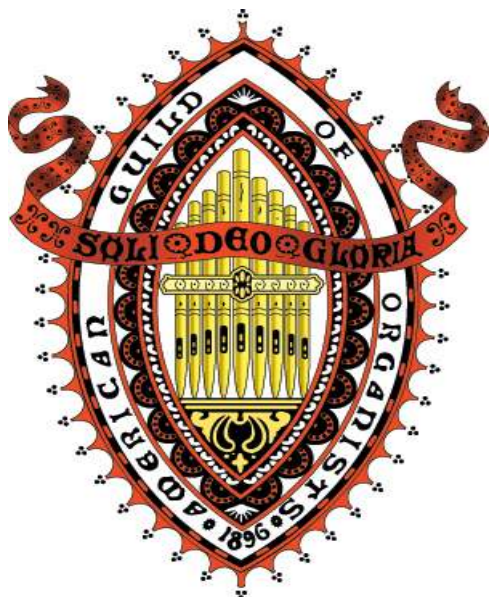
Please send all email address changes to: [webmaster@cacago.org](mailto:webmaster@cacago.org)  
All other changes should be sent to: CACAGO, Betty Deislinger - Treasurer,  
P.O. Box 2765, Little Rock, AR 72203-2765

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The Central Arkansas Chapter of  
the American Guild of Organists

P.O. Box 2765  
Little Rock, AR 72203-2765

Find us on the web:  
[www.cacago.org](http://www.cacago.org)



### **Slate of Officers for 2008-2009 (Election to be held in May)**

**Dean:** Phil Bordeleau and Bill Fox  
**Sub-Dean:** Wayne Simpson and Tim Allen  
**Secretary:** Betty Anderson and Linda Lowe  
**Treasurer:** Betty Deislinger and Robert Lindley  
**Board Member:** Margaret Shook and Jo Lee Fleming

**The Little Rock Wind Symphony**

#### **Springtime!**

**Thursday, April 17 7:30 p.m.**

**2nd Presbyterian Church  
Pleasant Valley Drive at Cantrell**

**Dr. Karen Fannin, Conductor  
Liana Tyson, Guest Flutist**

**Music of Bach, Ticheli, Copland, Sousa,  
Chaminade and Fillmore**

**Tickets: \$10, Seniors \$8, Students \$5**

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

**Presents**

**Simon Nieminski, Organist**

**A Program of Music of Masonic Composers**

**Friday, May 16**

**First Presbyterian Church Little Rock**

**A reception will follow at Albert Pike Memorial Temple**

**Information for the Punchbowl and Dinner will be  
included in the May edition of *The Clarion***