



# Central Arkansas Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.cacago.org

# The Clarion

May 2011

## Mission Statement

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members.

## 2010-2011 Officers

Richard Hixson, *dean*  
Wayne Simpson, *sub-dean*  
Jess Anthony, *treasurer*  
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Wayne Simpson  
Bill Fox

### Membership

Bill Fox

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Betty Cohen

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Virginia Strohmeyer-Miles

### Dinner Reservations

Marian Berry

## From the Dean

### *Happy Eastertide!*

Now that the Lord is Risen, Will and Kate are married, and Osama bin Laden has allegedly been welcomed into the arms of the deep, we should be able to draw a deep breath and look to Whitsunday. Then there is summer.

I thought the Ellis Memorial Concert in Batesville was a delight. I wish to thank Second Presbyterian Church and Bob Bidewell for providing transportation for all that did not care to drive. The weather was perfect as was the locale. It is rare that a church is designed for an organ. Mr. Baskeyfield did Eastman and Mr. Ellis proud. I thank all involved in making this event possible. I was very pleased to meet people from Batesville, Fayetteville and Newport enjoying the concert. This was another in a very good series of programs we have had this year.

As the year draws to a close, I want to thank our Sub-dean Wayne Simpson for the hard work he has done in arranging such a fine roster of programs for this season. I know he works very hard to keep contacts fresh and feelers out continually so we might have programs as fine as any in the country. I also want to thank our hosts. We met at St. Paul United Methodist, Christ Episcopal, the Home of Bob Bidewell, Pulaski Heights United Methodist, Christian Science Society at Batesville, and soon at First Presbyterian.

Four of our programs were completely underwritten. Without this lar-

gesse we could not have the quality programming we enjoy. I urge each and every one of you to contribute to the program fund and to the endowment fund in any way possible. As you know, the lion's share of your dues is devoured by national dues leaving only a pittance to provide programming or education locally. A group such as ours must depend on the generosity of members and outside donors for their tireless contributions both financial and in-kind. For this support, our gratitude goes out to each and every one of you.

I want to thank Bill Fox, Jonathan Merritt, and Betty Cohen for being the nominating committee this year. This is a task that is not nearly as easy as it appears. No one can please all the people all the time.

I am sure I have committed a sin of omission here. There are plenty of others who have worked and done yeoman's duty this year. Some, I am sure delight to see their names in print and others disdain it. I apologize if I have not included a name in print that should have been included.

Don't miss the meeting at First Presbyterian on May 13. The reputation of Diane Meredith Belcher precedes her. Nothing more needs to be said. Elections will also be held. Perhaps you can stage a demonstration or two!

See you soon.

WRH

## MAY MEETING

Friday, May 13, 2011

Diane Meredith Belcher, *Organist*

Punchbowl — 6:15

Dinner — 6:45

Program — 8:00

First Presbyterian Church

800 Scott St.

Little Rock, Arkansas

For dinner reservations, contact Marian Berry via email ([dinner@cacago.org](mailto:dinner@cacago.org)) or phone (501-663-1693). Marian is accepting reservations until noon on Wednesday, May 11. Your reservation will be confirmed via phone or email. If you do not receive a confirmation, please contact Marian to assure your reservation has been received.

## Biography of Diane Meredith Belcher

Internationally renowned organist Diane Meredith Belcher made her debut at age fifteen in her hometown just outside Philadelphia. In the decades since, she has performed throughout the United States, in Europe, and in Canada to the acclaim of critics and audiences alike. A graduate of The Curtis Institute of Music and The Eastman School of Music, she has studied with David Spicer, John Weaver, Clarence Watters, David Craighead, and Wilma Jensen. Laureate of both the St. Albans (England) and Chartres (France) international organ competitions, she also took the American Guild of Organists' top prize in its professional certification examinations.

Concert appearances have included Disney Hall, Los Angeles; Benaroya Hall, Seattle; Saint Thomas Church, New York City; Grace Cathedral, San Francisco; Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago; the 100th anniversary concert of the Wanamaker Grand Court Organ, Philadelphia; West Point Cadet Chapel; Spivey Hall, Atlanta; Saint Alban's Cathedral, England; Portland City Hall, Maine; Girard College, Philadelphia; Cathedral of the Madeleine, Salt Lake City; First Congregational Church, Los Angeles; the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri; the Curtis Institute of Music's 80th birthday celebration honoring Ned Rorem; the Cleveland Museum of Art; and the Crystal Cathedral, Los Angeles. In May 2006 she was featured in recital on the opening weekend of the new organ in the Philadelphia's Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts.

Ms. Belcher has appeared regularly on the Wanamaker Grand Court Organ in Philadelphia, in duo-recital with trumpeter Rob Roy McGregor of the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and as soloist with numerous orchestras, including the Philadelphia, Hatfield (England), Jacksonville, Syracuse, Memphis, Wichita, Columbus (Georgia), and Curtis Symphony orchestras. She has several recordings to her credit, including a JAV release which won The Absolute Sound's Golden Ear Award for the year 2000, and is often featured on radio and television interviews and features such as Public Radio International's *Pipedreams*.

Diane Meredith Belcher is in frequent demand by her colleagues, having performed at numerous national and regional conventions of the Ameri-

can Guild of Organists, and at the national conventions of the Royal Canadian College of Organists and the Organ Historical Society. Her sensational performance of the Jongen *Symphonie Concertante* with the Philadelphia Orchestra at the 2002 national convention of the American Guild of Organists created a thunderous standing ovation from an audience of nearly three thousand. She has led many workshops and master classes, and is in demand as a competition juror. Often she is asked to consult for pipe organ projects for churches or other institutions planning to install a new instrument. She has commissioned and premiered several organ compositions, and is herself the composer of a small body of sacred music.

Ms. Belcher has served as a church musician for over three decades, and was the founding director of the Memphis Concert Chorale. Most recently she served at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, and later Christ Church, both in Philadelphia. She has taught organ extensively, serving on the faculties of University of Memphis, Tennessee, Westminster Choir College, and University of Pennsylvania, and freelances with such ensembles as the Buxtehude Consort and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra. In August 2010 she started her current position at Old Saint Paul's Church, Baltimore, making history as one of very few women ever appointed to a traditional men-and-boys choir.

Laudatory reviews of her playing have appeared in such publications as *Clavier*, *The New Records*, *The American Organist*, *Organists' Review*, *The Diapason*, and newspapers throughout the country and abroad. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* has described her playing as "alchemy ... definitely among the afternoon's high points," and the *Halifax Chronicle-Herald* praised her "musical elegance, clarity, projection and mastery of style ... an amazing display of musical virtuosity of the highest order." Of her recordings, the German journal *Orgel International* states, "Diane Meredith Belcher's playing is exemplary in every respect," and *American Record Guide* calls her performances "glowingly brilliant, rhythmically vibrant, consistently expressive, and full of both atmosphere and personality – in short, everything that artistic organ playing should be."

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May Recital Program  
Diane Meredith Belcher, *Organist*

Fantasy and Fugue in G minor, BWV 542

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685 – 1750)

Four Jazz Chorale Settings

*Kommt herbei, singt dem Herrn*

*Thank-You-Duo-Dobeedo*

*Hilf, Herr meines Lebens*

*Erhalf, herr (Swing Five)*

Johannes Matthias Michel  
(b. 1962)

Postlude pour l'Office de Complines, JA 29

Jehan Alain  
(1911 – 1941)

Litanies, JA 119

**INTERMISSION**

Suite, Op. 5

*Prélude*

*Sicilienne*

*Toccata*

Maurice Duruflé  
(1902 – 1986)

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*Diane Meredith Belcher is represented by Karen McFarlane Artists.*

## Treasurer's Report

INCOME		EXPENSES	
<b>REVENUE</b>		<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	
Dues	\$ 4,091.00	Dues to National	\$ 2,289.00
Ad Sales	\$ 885.00	Catering	\$ 1,947.00
Meals	\$ 1,740.00	Remaining Expenses	\$ 664.00
Carry Over (FY09)	\$ 9,085.00		\$ 4,900.00
	<u>\$ 15,801.00</u>		
<b>SUPPORT</b>		<b>ARTISTIC</b>	
Individuals	\$ 4,522.00	Artist Fees/Housing	\$ 12,796.07
Corporate/Church	\$ 1,150.00	Remaining Expenses	\$ 533.00
Endowment	\$ 300.00		<u>\$ 13,329.07</u>
	<u>\$ 5,972.00</u>	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	\$ 18,229.07
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	\$ 21,773.00	<b>SURPLUS</b>	\$ 3,543.93
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 3,500.00		

## Thank You For Your Support

(This list may be incomplete)

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Total Donations for 2010: \$10,411.97	

## Position Available

**Our Lady of the Holy Souls Catholic Church**  
1003 N. Tyler St.  
Little Rock, Arkansas

**Part-time Assistant Organist**  
to accompany children's choir,  
adult choir, and one mass per weekend

Send résumé to Shelley Tienken, Business Manager  
(stienken@holysouls.org)

## Thank you note . . .

I'd like to express appreciation for the recital of Maxine Thévenot. It was really nice having a woman recitalist, and hearing a recital filled with pieces I hadn't heard before. Many thanks to the ones responsible for this.

*Elizabeth Plowman*