

THE COUPLER

The Dean's Message



Dear Friends and
Colleagues -

Greetings! My best to you and yours as we enter into the beautiful month of October. Our program year has started with wonderful success. It was good to see so many of you at our September tri-chapter Installation of Officers, and at the October Pipes Spectacular recital. Both events were wonderful and really demonstrate the high quality of

artistry and fellowship that we offer our members.

I know that I mentioned it last year, but this year I truly mean it - this will be my last year as Dean of the chapter. Under the bylaws, I am not permitted to serve as Dean for more than three terms. I am incredibly grateful to Irvin Peterson for agreeing to serve as co-Dean with me for this year. Any of you who have held this position

Continued on page 4

OCTOBER 2016 In This Issue



Chapter Schedule of Events

2



A Recap of the fabulous Pipes Spectacular with Johann Vexo

5



A new season of Music @ the Monastery begins this month with Russell Weismann in concert.

8

Mark Your Calendar!

Veteran's Day Road Trip

Friday, November 11

More information will be sent to all members via email or post-mail as details become available.

2016-2017 DC AGO Chapter Schedule of Events

Sunday, September 25 at 7:00 pm
Opening Convocation and Installation of Officers
with Eileen Gunther officiating and
recitalist Chris Betts
Church of the Redeemer
6201 Dunrobbin Dr.
Bethesda, Maryland 20816

Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 pm
Tri-Chapter Pipes Spectacular
Johann Vexo, Organist
National Presbyterian Church
4101 Nebraska Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

Friday, November 11, 8 am to approx. 8 pm
Veterans' Day Road Trip
A Day of Organ Playing with
Wine Tastings on the return trip
Destination to be Announced Soon

January 2017
Twelfth Night Service and Catered Dinner
Join members of the Potomac Chapter and DC Chapter
for this beloved Epiphany-tide tradition.
The cost of dinner is \$20 per person.
All Saints Episcopal Church
3 Chevy Chase Circle
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

Monday, February 20, 2017
Presidents' Day Organ Festival
More information to come

Continued on page 3

DC AGO Board of Directors

Co-Deans

Irvin Peterson
 Russell J. Weismann

Sub Dean

Christopher Betts

Secretary

Kathleen Cooper

Treasurer

Rob Church

Hospitality Coordinator

Irvin Peterson

Education Coordinator

Jeremy Filsell

Historian

Irv Lawless

Communications

Director

David K. Houston

The Coupler

A monthly newsletter
 published by the District
 of Columbia Chapter,
 American Guild of
 Organists

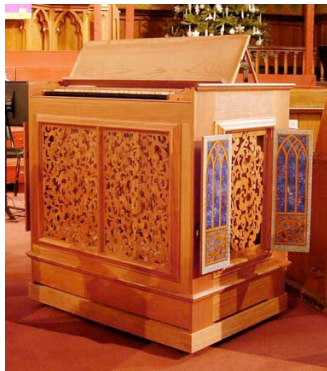
David K. Houston,
 Editor

To contact the DC AGO
 or for newsletter
 submissions:
dcagochapter@gmail.com

Continued from page 2

Tuesday, March 14, 2017
 An evening with Past AGO President, Dr. John Walker
 Co-Sponsored with the DC/Arlington NPM chapter
 The Cathedral of Saint Thomas More
 3901 N Cathedral Lane
 Arlington, VA 22203

May 2017
 Potomac Organ Institute Student Recital



Beautiful Continuo Organ for Rent

The Bennet & Giutarri organ is an excellent instrument for accompanying your vocal or instrumental ensemble. The voicing and speech is exceptionally fine and regular from note to note. The tone is gentle and supportive. There is no strident, piercing sound. All the pipes are wood and stable in pitch. Tuning is normally performed with equal temperament however some unequal temperaments may be set. The transposing keyboard allows for several different pitches.

The organ can be delivered to your performance venue two days prior to use. It is tuned the day prior to use and then picked up not later than the day after use. Renter is responsible for the safe keeping of the organ while in possession and arranging ready and easy access for delivery, tuning and pick up. Mileage for delivery is extra when outside Baltimore City.

C-d" (51 notes) transposing keyboard
 A - 392, 415, 440, 465 hz
 8' Gedackt
 4' Flute
 2' Principal

- Organ is mounted on a stage dolly for easy moving
- Blower is self contained within the case
- Volume controlled with opening panels
- Equal Temperament
- Unequal Temperament Tuning is available for additional charge
- Set-up and Tuning included in rental
- Gentle tone, perfect for chamber and choral music
- Plugs into standard 110 volt outlet, extension cord included

To schedule an inspection or inquire about dates and rates please contact;

David M. Storey, Inc.
 Pipe Organ Builders and Restorers
 Baltimore, Maryland

410-889-3800 – davidmstoreyinc@gmail.com

*Dean's Message**Continued from page 1*

know of the work that it entails. It is a position that I am honored to hold, yet after two years, I knew that the time needed from me was becoming more and more difficult to find, especially as I also try to work to finish my doctoral coursework. Irvin is taking on a lot of responsibility, and for that, I am extremely grateful.

I also welcome the newest members to our board: Chris Betts, sub-Dean, and David Houston, Communications Director. Both are wonderfully gifted musicians and have added many fresh ideas to the board.

Thank you, also, to our returning board members; Kathy Cooper, Secretary, Rob Church, Treasurer, Jeremy Filsell, Education Coordinator, and Irv Lawless, Archivist. Our chapter success is aided by the hard work of all of your board members. It is a responsibility that we are well invested in.

As we look forward to the rest of our program year, there is one change that needs to occur. Since last spring, when we first arranged our Veterans Day trip to Atlantic City, a rodeo has been added to the

Convention Hall schedule on November 11. I was told that the animals do not like the sound of the organ, so we were asked to reschedule. No plans have been made to reschedule a trip to Atlantic City. Instead, the board is working on an alternative itinerary. We hope to release details on a new trip in the coming weeks. Stay tuned!

Your #1 fan -

Russell Weismann



Patrick J. Summers, M.S.

SUMMERS & ASSOCIATES, LLC

Bookkeeping, Accounting, Tax Prep, Audit, and Financial Management

*Serving Church Musicians, Performing Artists,
and Nonprofit Organizations Nationwide*

1775 "I" Street, N.W., #1150
Washington, DC 20006
202-390-4018

201 Saint Charles Avenue, #2500
New Orleans, LA 70170
504-940-8313

pjsumm@aol.com summersllc.net

Member: National Society of Accountants, Institute of Management Accountants

A Recap of Pipes Spectacular

On Sunday October 2nd the Tri-chapters presented French organist, Johann Vexo as our 2016 Pipes Spectacular artist.

Mr. Vexo, currently one of the organists at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, was born in 1978 in Nancy, France, a city near the borders of Belgium, Luxembourg and Germany. A prize-winning organist of highly comprehensive study and training, Mr. Vexo claims an impressive list of teachers to include Christophe Mantoux, Michel Bouvard, Olivier Latry, Thierry Escaich and Philippe Lefebvre. His performance schedule is no less impressive, with appearances throughout Europe, the United States, Canada and Russia. He is also highly respected as a teacher and recording artist.

Mr. Vexo's concert for us included music of Johann Sebastian Bach, Camille Saint-Saens, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Charles-Marie Widor. From the very beginning of the concert it was quite evident that Mr. Vexo would demonstrate virtuosic command of the magnificent Aeolian Skinner organ of The National Presbyterian Church.

The program began with Prelude and Fugue in E minor, BWV 548 of Johann Sebastian Bach. The prelude was performed with smooth and fluid technique and appropriate registrations to accommodate the spacious acoustic of the room. As Mr. Vexo continued with the fugue, his commanding technical prowess and clean articulation provided extreme clarity in the musical lines. An understated musical maturity became evident as the suspension was very tastefully paced to the end.

The program continued with a thrilling and suspense-filled reading of Danse Macabre, op. 40 by Camille Saint-Saëns, in a transcription by Edwin Lemare. From chimes to antiphonal trumpets, this was Mr. Vexo's opportunity to unleash the full range of orchestral sounds and colors available to him on this versatile instrument. His masterful command of the console along with agile and seamless registration changes made for a delightful orchestral transcription experience. With brass, woodwinds and strings clearly defined, solo voices were allowed to sing clearly above accompaniment. This was a well-balanced aural experience that, for me, was not to be soon forgotten.

Johann took us back in time a bit to experience the music of Mozart. We were treated to a fiery rendition of Mozart's Adagio and Fugue in C minor, K. 546 in a transcription by Jean Guillou. Opening with great fire and aggression followed by immediate dynamic change to a kinder, gentler nature, one could hardly dismiss the



feeling of being in the presence of an extremely bipolar personality. This emotional 'back and forth' created an intense feeling of agitation and anticipation. Mr. Vexo's careful, yet unapologetic negotiation of the Skinner's powerful reeds were indeed a challenge to 'this' listener. However, Johann's technical clarity, once again, proved to be the key to the musical triumph of this offering. Transparency in the fugal material along with expertly executed pedal trills and careful musical pacing led to a fiery aggressive ending to match the fiery aggressive beginning.

Our concert concluded with the monumental Symphonie No. 6, Op. 42, No. 2 of Charles-Marie Widor. With an opening that exploited the full and raw power of this instrument, it was truly thrilling to witness Mr. Vexo perform a well-crafted and stealthy diminuendo that seamlessly reduced the sound of the organ to a whisper. The movement continued as Mr. Vexo used a good bit of the expansive pedal division to accompany the busy manual passages. I got the distinct impression that Johann was really having a lot of fun with this instrument and with this music. However there were times when it seemed as if the room was having a bit of difficulty tempering an over abundance of the 8' principal sound, thereby causing an uncomfortable thickness of texture in ff-fff passages.

The inner movements produced some of my favorite sounds of the day. Mr. Vexo created an extremely lush-sounding principal chorus. He also produced shimmering strings to accompany the solo flute. With those particular sounds, a listener could have been easily transported to another plane of existence. The final movement grandly encapsulated the entire event.

Well played, Johann! We are very grateful to Mr. Vexo for performing for us. We are also extremely grateful to The National Presbyterian Church for hosting this event.

Sincerely submitted,
Irvin Peterson, Co-Dean

Members' Events

Friday, October 7, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
John Horman, keyboard; Cathy Teixeira, soprano; Bill Burns, horn

Friday, October 14, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist Christopher Schroeder

Friday, October 14, 7:30 p.m.

Youth Services Opportunities Project
2016 Benefit Concert
Epiphany Episcopal Church
Nicholas Phan, tenor; Myra Huang, piano
See YSOP.org for ticket information

Sunday, October 16, 4 pm

Music in McLean
Saint Luke Catholic Church
Maryland State Boychoir
See musicinmclean.org for ticket information

Friday, October 21, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist Mitchell Miller

Sunday, October 23, 4 pm

Music in McLean
Saint Luke Catholic Church
New Dominion Chorale
See musicinmclean.org for ticket information

Friday, October 28, 12:15 p.m.

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist Stephen Kalnoske; the choirs of Damascus and Marriott's Ridge High Schools; Victoria Brooks, soprano

Friday, November 4, 12:15 pm

Music at Midday
National City Christian Church
Organist Carson Cooman

Sunday, November 6, 5 pm

Marching to Zion: Saints in Story and Song
Christ Church Alexandria

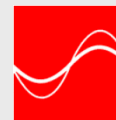
Members are encouraged to submit recitals and concerts for public listing on the DC AGO website. Submit your event for web or newsletter listing to dcagochapter@gmail.com

Acoustic Design Services

Acoustical Design Collaborative, Ltd specializes in ecclesiastical spaces where natural acoustics for music and unobtrusive amplified speech are essential for worship celebration. We have completed over 90 successful projects involving the following services:

- **Acoustic Measurements**
- **Room Reverberation Enhancement**
- **Audio/Visual Systems Design**
- **Sound System Tuning & Optimization**
- **Organ Space Planning**

We strive to provide our clients with professional advice based on prudent design criteria, cost-effective solutions, clear concise recommendations, open communication, all delivered in a timely manner. Please contact us to see how we can provide 'heavenly sounds' for your Sanctuary.



**ACOUSTICAL DESIGN
COLLABORATIVE, LTD**

7509 L'Hirondelle Club Road
Ruxton, MD 21204-6418



2016 BENEFIT RECITAL

“Gods and Monsters” **October 14, 2016**

Songs by German Romantic composers about myths, legends and fairy tales

Featuring Nicholas Phan, Tenor

Myra Huang, Piano

7:30 pm Recital

Followed by Dessert Reception to meet Nicholas and Myra

Church of the Epiphany

1317 G Street, NW

Washington, DC

RSVP by October 5, 2016

YSOP has inspired young people to develop a life-long commitment to serve others since 1983.

YSOP's innovative programs engage youth in hands-on service to hungry and homeless people in New York City and Washington, DC. YSOPers prepare and serve meals in soup kitchens, help distribute food, furniture and clothing, assist with recreation activities for children in family shelters, help seniors at risk of eviction stay in their homes, and provide companionship to homeless people at YSOP's weekly dinners.

YSOP hosts one-day, overnight and weeklong programs for middle school, high school and college students and also sponsors a year-long fellowship for recent college graduates. With adult guidance, orientation, reflection and education about social issues, students experience the challenges and rewards of service. Last year 4,300 YSOP volunteers served over 398,000 men, women and children in need.

We are most grateful to Nicholas Phan for his generous donation of this recital to benefit YSOP. Named one of NPR's "Favorite New Artists of 2011," American tenor Nicholas Phan is increasingly recognized as an artist of distinction. Praised for his keen intelligence, captivating stage presence and natural musicianship, Nicholas performs regularly with the world's leading orchestras and opera companies.

The Baltimore Sun raved that Nicholas is "one of the most eloquently communicative tenors on the scene today," and the New York Times lauded, "The tenor Nicholas Phan, with his sweet, clear voice is on a career roll."

When asked in a New York Times interview why he loves performing on the recital stage, Nicholas responded, "There is nothing more difficult than giving a solo recital, because there is no costume to hide behind. In an opera, you are interacting with your colleagues. In a recital, you are baring your soul, and there is direct contact with an audience. I get my thrill from that. There is no fourth wall to hide behind."

**Tickets may be
purchased at
YSOP.org**



Music @ the Monastery

Located on forty-four acres of beautifully landscaped gardens, the Franciscan Monastery (Mount St. Sepulchre Franciscan Monastery) is a beautiful architectural gem hidden in the northeast corner of Washington, D.C. Built in 1899 in the shape of a Jerusalem Cross in neo-Byzantine architectural style, the Monastery includes gardens, replicas of various shrines throughout Israel, a replica of the catacombs in Rome, an archive, a library, as well as bones of Saint Benignus of Armagh, brought from the Roman Catacombs and originally in the Cathedral of Narni, Italy. The Monastery's Lively-Fulcher pipe organ was built in 1998 and contains forty ranks of pipes over three manuals and pedal.

Together with the Franciscan Monastery, the DC AGO is proud to support a series of community outreach musical events titled, "Music @ the Monastery". These events are free of charge and take place on the second Sunday of each month at 4pm, followed by a reception. All are welcome!

2016-2017 Recitalists

October 9	Russell Weismann (Saint Jane Frances de Chantal Parish - Bethesda, Maryland)
November 13	Carl Schwartz (All Hallows Parish - Davidsonville, Maryland)
December 11	Iris Lan (New York, NY)
January 8	Clarice Snyder (Washington, DC)
February 12	Nathan Davy (National Shrine - Washington, DC)
March 12	Brass and Organ (Brass of Peace Ensemble with Lisa Galoci, Organist)
April 9	Ronald Butts-Boehmer (Messiah Lutheran Church - Germantown, Maryland)
May 14	Paul Skevington (Saint Luke Catholic Church - McLean, Virginia)

THE COUPLER

District of Columbia Chapter
The American Guild of Organists

*Promote your event, product, or cause with an advertisement in The Coupler, the official publication of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Rates are as follows: full page, \$25; half-page, \$20; quarter page, \$15. Please email advertising requests to dcagochapter@gmail.com with "The Coupler" in the subject field.
Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists.*