The Monthly Publication of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (except July)

September 2015 Volume 86, Issue 2

Mixtures



The Dean's Message



Kyla K. Rosenberger BM, MM, CAGO FWAGO Dean, 2014-2016



Venue for our Opening event

Hello Fort Worth Chapter,

I'm looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday, September 1st at our opening chapter event. It happens to be at the same venue as our May dinner meeting and we will dine together again over a good meal. We will share fine conversation (no business meeting this time!) and laugh along with a Charlie Chaplin film. Kiyo Watanabe, one of our chapter members from Wichita Falls, will play his own theater organ accompaniment in his distinctive and virtuosic style.

Don't forget to bring music from your collections for our free Music Swap after the film. Read on in this Mixtures for news about other AGO events and area organ and choral music. We have several new members and much to be excited about.

Happy fall! Kyla Rosenberger, CAGO

COMMUNITY MUSIC EVENTS

FALL 2015

AGO HEADUARTERS

James E. Thomashower, CAE, BA Executive Director

> Eric Birk, FAGO, MM Executive Assistant

F. Anthony Thurman, DMA Director of Development and Communications

Bill Valentine
Director of Information Technology and Digital
Communications

Harold Calhoun, MA Manager, Educational Resources and Competitions

> Abigail Loyal Financial Manager

Leah Semiken, BA Manager of Membership and Chapter Relations

Ashleigh Hendrix-Airiodion Membership and Accounting Assistant

> Paul Wolfe, MSM Certification Program Administrator

Events planned, organized, performed or sponsored by our Chapter members. Open to public and free unless otherwise noted. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EVENT INFOR-MATION TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRMAN, Kurt Hilsabeck, at kshilsabeck@yahoo.com by 20th day of the month to ensure the event appears in this publication.

Sep 1, 2015, Tue, 6:00pm (SEASONS OPENING CHAPTER EVENT) University Christian Church

2720 S University Drive

Fort Worth, TX 76109

SILENT MOVIE ACCOMPANIED BY KIYO WATANABE

For those who made meal reservations, dinner will begin promptly at **6pm**. At **6:30pm** we will have a chapter business meeting, followed by the concert at **7:00pm**. After the program, we will have a music swap in which you can bring/browse your favorite anthems/organ literature/collections, etc. Consider summer anthems (easy, 2 or 3 parts), anthems with additional instruments, particular seasonal anthems, etc. E-mail Kurt Hilsabeck (kshilsabeck@yahoo.com) by August 28th for dinner reservations.

Sep 10, 2015, Thur, 7:30pm

University of Texas at Arlington, Fine Arts Building (South Section) Irons Recital Hall 700 West Greek Row Dr

Arlington, TX 76010

LINTON POWELL 40TH ANNUAL FACULTY RECITAL

Dr. Linton Powell will present his 40th annual organ and harpsichord recital. The recital is free and open to the public.

Sep 11, 2015, Fri, 7:00pm

MacGorman Chapel, Southwestern Seminary 2001 W. Seminary Dr. Fort Worth, TX 76115

ORGAN RECITAL - DR. H. GERALD (JERRY) AULTMAN

Works by Weaver, Bach, Dupre, Delius & Fedak

Admission is FREE and open to the public

September 20, 2015, Sunday, 4:00pm

Church of the Incarnation 3966 McKinney Ave, Dallas, TX 75204

Choral Concert - The Choir of Trinity College,

Cambridge

This rare Dallas appearance of one of the most acclaimed mixed-voice choirs in the world will delight and move listeners. At home at Cambridge University, the choir sings three choral services each week during university term, giving them a facility of musicianship and breadth of repertoire that is truly astounding. Trinity College's choral tradition dates back to the 14th century, and Gramophone magazine recently named them among the top five choirs in the world.

Tickets are \$20 - General Admission \$10 - Seniors and Student

COMMUNITY MUSIC EVENTS (cont'd)

FALL 2015

AGO NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

Michael Velting, DMA
Councillor for Conventions

Don Cook, AAGO, DMACouncillor for Education

David K. Lamb, CAGO, DMUS
Councillor for Membership/
Convener of Regional
Councillors

Marialice Parish, BM, MM
District Convenor/
Northern Texas

AGO REGIONAL COUNCILLOR

Vicki Schaeffer, DM Southwest Region (formerly Region VII) Events planned, organized, performed or sponsored by our Chapter members. Open to public and free unless otherwise noted. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EVENT INFOR-MATION TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS CHAIRMAN, Kurt Hilsabeck, at kshilsabeck@yahoo.com by 20th day of the month to ensure the event appears in this publication.

October 2, 2015, Friday, 7:00pm St. Albans Church 911 South Davis Arlington, TX 76013

Organ Recital - Isabelle Demers

Isabelle Demers is Organ Professor and head of the Organ Department at Baylor University. A native of Quebec and a noted recitalist, she is rapidly becoming recognized as one of North America's most virtuosic organists.

Admission is FREE and all are invited to attend.

October 4th, Sun, 7:30pm
Robert Carr Chapel (On the campus of Texas Christian University)
2855 S University Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76129

Joshua Lang First Graduate Organ Recital

Admission is FREE and open to the public

Oct 11, 2015, Sun, 3:00pm Arborlawn United Methodist Church 5001 Briarhaven Road Fort Worth, TX 76109

ORGAN RECITAL - JOHANNES GEFFERT

Texas Christian University School of Music in cooperation with Arborlawn United Methodist Church presents in recital Johannes Geffert, Professor of Organ at Hochschule fur Musik in Cologne, Germany Admission is FREE and all are invited to attend. Professor Geffert is a well known recording and concert artist in Europe and has performed in Asia as well as the United States and Europe. He has been the teacher of several TCU Fulbright organ students during their years of study.

Fort Worth AGO Executive Committee - 2014-2016

Officers

Kyla K. Rosenberger, BM, MM, CAGO, *Dean /* kyla@uccftw.com / 817 -926-6631

Robert J. August, DMA, Sub-Dean / jsbach_august@yahoo.com / 817-335-1231

Dennis C. Opferman, BA, MS, Secretary / dcopferman@yahoo.com / 817 -735-8710

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AGO MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we:

Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;

Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;

Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;

Nurture future generations of organists;

Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

Our Generous Chapter Concert Fund Donors, Thank you!

*******(Due to financial processing at AGO HQ, if you donate online, it may be 2 or 3 weeks before our chapter treasurer sees your donation in the chapter's bank account. Donations are not posted until the treasurer sees the deposit in the bank account. Those that donate online near the publication date of this periodical may not see their donation listed until the next issue.)

DISTINGUISHED BENEFACTORS (\$1000 - \$1999)

BENEFACTORS (\$500 - \$999)

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Mary Jo Springer
Louise Stewart
Jane C. Sweeny, SPC
Jack Noble White

CORRECTION COLUMN:

The volume number and issue number in the August 2015 issue of *Mixtures* was published incorrectly by the editor. Please change it to "Volume 86, Issue 1."

-Joshua Lang, editor

From the Editor: Do you have trouble finding music?

I have always been frustrated with not knowing everything that is in my organ music library. I will usually find pieces based on hymn tunes that I played at my church a month ago and think to myself, "If only if I would have known I had this piece, I could have used it for an organ solo!" So, my solution to this problem was to create a database of my music library in Microsoft Excel. Yes, this is very time consuming work, but if you do this you'll thank yourself later, (and no I am not finished with mine yet.) Some of you may have already done this, but for those who have not I have a template to send you if you would like to get started on this project, just e-mail me: Joshua.lang@mavs.uta.edu and I'll be happy to do so. You'll need to have your music organized somehow in filing cabinets for it to work, I suggest by composer last name. All you have to do is perform a quick search, on a PC hold Ctrl + F and the dialog box will appear, (it should work similarly on a MAC), then type in what ever you are looking for, and the results will appear. Once you start cataloging, you can't stop, and you'll be amazed at how many pieces based on the same tune you may have available to you. Having a music library database will benefit you in numerous ways for your music planning future.

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Pipe Dreams

For those of you who don't know, Pipe Dreams is broadcasted on WRR Classical 101.1FM on Sunday nights at 9pm. If you are unable to listen to it then, you can hear it on the Pipe Dreams website: http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/navigate your way to "Programs" and the recordings will be listed there. Archived recordings of Pipe Dreams dating back to 1989 are provided for your enjoyment. So, if you are not up that late on Sunday nights, be sure to have a look for yourself.

-Joshua Lang

2015-2016 PROGRAMMING

We are looking at a nicely varied program for the upcoming year; from silent movies to masterclasses, from solo recitals to improvisation. This year offers something for both – as J.S. Bach put it – connoisseurs and lovers of such art. Here is an overview of chapter events, as well as chapter sponsored events:

On September 1 we will have our chapter's opening event at University Christian Church. A 6 pm dinner will be proceeded by a silent movie, accompanied by our very own chapter member Dr. Kiyo Watanabe. After the program members can participate in a music swap. Bring any organ scores you don't need or use anymore. Your old scores may just become someone else's favorite new piece.

On September 20 at 7 pm, Broadway Baptist Church will host internationally acclaimed organist Paul Jacobs. A reception is held after the concert.

Arborlawn United Methodist Church is hosting Johannes Geffert, professor for organ and improvisation at the State Conservatory for Music in Cologne. The concert is scheduled for October 11 at 3 pm.

On November 12, at 6:30 pm we will have refreshments, then following that at 7pm Thomas Helms will accompany a silent movie at University Christian Church.

University Christian Church will celebrate its 40th production of the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on January 2 and 3, at 3 and 5 pm on both days. Group tickets will be arranged.

On February 13 at 10-12, Stefan Engels, Professor of Organ and Leah Fullinwider Centennial Chair of Organ at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, will teach a masterclass on German romantic repertoire. Fort Worth chapter members are invited and encouraged to prepare a composition for this masterclass. Please contact Sub-dean Robert August if you would like to actively participate in this event.

Monica Czausz, winner of the Regional Competition for Young Organists (RCYO) for the Southwest Region of 2015, will present a program at Broadway Baptist Church on April 24 at 7 pm.

Adding to our chapter's educational component, Dr. John D. Schwandt, Associate Professor of Organ and Director of the American Organ Institute at the University of Oklahoma School of Music, will present a masterclass on improvisation and registration. He is a nationally acclaimed performer and is in demand as a clinician, recitalist, leader of hymn festivals, silent film accompanist and as an organ consultant. This program will be hosted by Ridglea Presbyterian Church on May 21 from 10-12.

The chapter's final event will be held on June 17 at 7 pm at First Presbyterian Church, and serves as a prelude to the American Guild of Organists national convention, as Chris Trikilis, our Australian member, will present a program for organ and brass.

TREASURES FOR THE TAKING !!!

We have LOTS of **FREE** treasures and golden gems remaining from the music swap that was part of our opening season's event at University Christian Church, Sep 1st. Many choral scores are waiting to give you ideas about future anthems, organ scores stand ready to sound forth in full glory on your organ, and awaiting your nimble fingers are loads of piano scores including popular music and the most classical of classical gems.

Here's the deal: the music is now stored in the music office at University Christian Church on north side of Texas Christian University campus. Make an appointment to browse the scores by calling Marsha Hodges, Music Administrative Assistant, on church phone at 817-926-6631. The church is open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m Mon - Thu and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Fri. Music will remain stored there until Tue, Sep 15th. Then all the scores will be moved to Ridglea Presbyterian Church in west Fort Worth and be available for browsing from Sep 16th through end of September. Call the church organist, Dale Bench, at 817-584-5592, to make an appointment to browse the scores. At end of September, whatever music remains will be given to a retail store that accepts used publications for resale.



+ + + + IN MEMORIAM + + +

World renowned organist John Scott passed away suddenly on August 12th in New York City. John Scott was a highly regarded organist/recitalist, based at St. Thomas Church in New York City. He had been a recitalist in the Dallas and Fort Worth areas in past years and was considered a superb musician. He was only 59 years of age.

To get more information you can check out the following link: http://www.saintthomaschurch.org/ about/news/342/john-scott-1956-2015?preview key=83778

Our hearts and prayers go out to our long time member, Elizabeth Kutz, CAGO. Her husband, Ed Kutz, died early in the morning of August 26th. Elizabeth has been his caretaker for several years as Ed struggled with medical issues resulting from organ transplants. Burial will take place out of state, and sometime in the near future a memorial service will be held locally. A card has been sent to Elizabeth on behalf of our chapter by our Hospitality Chair, Jeanette Keim, but if you want to send Elizabeth a personal note, below is her address:

Elizabeth Kutz 605 Van Buren Dr. Arlington, TX 76011-3217

Welcome to Our New Members!

If you see one or more of them at a Chapter Event, be sure to give them a warm welcome, and to introduce yourself!

Dr. Susan De Kam is a long time member of AGO, both at The University of Michigan where she earned her Masters and DMA in Organ Performance, and in Dallas. In the past she has enjoyed performing and competing all over the world. She was a finalist for the NYACOP in DC a few years back. Presently, she is happy writing music and seeking other collaborative ways to make music. Susan is organist at Northaven United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX.

Richelle Gengler is currently organist at Grace Lutheran Church in Midland, TX. She also teaches piano and organ lessons from the studio in her home. Richelle began keyboard studies with her grandmother, one of many musicians in the family, and continued her study at St. John's Lutheran College in Winfield, KS where she received an Associate in Arts degree. Ms. GENGLER lives in Midland but hopes to attend FWAGO events when possible.

Dirk Maney is a long time member and chorister at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth. He is chairperson for the search committee that will be selecting the permanent Organist/Director of Music at St. Stephen. Dirk works for IBM as a worldwide sales executive for one of the IBM software lines. Though he is not an organist, he shares a great interest in organ music and in FWAGO.

Micah Raebel is Director of Music and Worship Arts at Grace Lutheran Church in Arlington,TX. He studied at Valparaiso University and performed at Organ Historical Conventions in 2007 and 2009.

Phyllis Wolf is Organist at First Christian Church, Arlington, TX. She was previously Music Assistant at Trinity United Methodist Church, Arlington and was staff accompanist at SWBTS for several years. Phyllis studied at Oklahoma Baptist University where she earned a BME in piano performance. Phyllis is married to FWAGO member, John Wolf.

-Keji Lu

-Jillian Gardner

CHAPTER GAINS \$ FROM CONVENTION!

As reported by the Convention Coordinator, Dr. H. Joseph Butler, AAGO, in the August, 2015, issue of *Mixtures*, the convention was a huge success in terms of registrants, music programs, workshops, lunch and dinner gatherings. Now I can report the financial success of the convention since all convention accounting has been completed, and a detailed report of income and expenses has been submitted to our national headquarters. After paying all convention expenses there was a net gain of \$15,786.20, and that has been deposited to the chapter's savings account. Since the chapter had gifted \$10,000.00 in seed money to kick off the design and implementation of the convention, the \$10,000.00 gift was in effect returned plus an additional gain of \$5,786.20. (Submitted by Ed Ackermann, Convention Treasurer.)

Forgotten master Moritz Brosig: obscure liturgical music craftsman of the 19th century

In the modern age with our phones we seemingly have access to knowledge of everything, everywhere, and at all times. No longer must one do a request for interlibrary loan to retrieve a book from some far off place. With the wholesale scanning of music globally, scores are readily found online in great measure, and generally for free. In some instances music has been "engraved" and set in music notation which can even be amended for one's use.

I will share my experience and give anecdotal information as I have found it on a couple free sites for those who might benefit from a fast-track entry into who these composers were and where to find their music.

IMSLP.org. This stands for the "International Music Score Library Project". I have found several composers, both well known and unknown on this website.

Moritz Brosig: (1815-1887) He was German born, having been raised in Breslau, (in what is now Poland) and attended the Institute of Sacred Music at University of Breslau. His professor was the "Domorganist", Franz Wolf. This means he studied under the cathedral organist in a sort of mentor/student relationship as organ scholar to the cathedral, while he was organist at nearby St Adelbert. When his professor died in 1843, Brosig was appointed his successor in the cathedral as organist. There he composed much liturgical music for choir, orchestra and wrote organ music. Later in his life, the "Cecelian movement" strove to bring church music away from the orchestrated and sentimental theatrical music style which Brosig wrote in. He turned his writing style instead to 16th and 17th century polyphony, as a nod to the Cecelianists. In 1853 upon the death of the "domkappelmesiter" (Director of music for the cathedral-an expanded role beyond organist) he beat out notable competition to be named the "Dom" of the Cathedral music. Breslau apparently liked its home-grown talent. It is not known if he played concerts outside of Breslau, but his organ playing was much admired. His organ works were circulated primarily in Silesia, Austria and Southern Germany. He had six publishers who promoted his organ literature. His style is often compared to Mendelssohn's writing style and well-crafted musicianship. He was a lecturer at the Sacred Music Institute at Breslau University, and took a doctorate in music after having published his papers on "modulation theory", and "harmony". His study of 16th and 17th century compositional style was well regarded to the point that he formed an acapella group which provided most of the liturgical functional music in the cathedral. He was eventually appointed a professor in the Sacred Music Institute. His choral and orchestra works were well crafted, and were very popular with moder

(continued from page 11)

ately skilled choirs in the region. The orchestra writing fully supported the voices while allowing the colors of the orchestra to shine in the texture of the music. Even a choir of moderate means could sound quite lovely accompanied by these orchestra settings. As the 1860s and 1870s continued however, the movement away from "secular" style music writing disappeared from favor, as the Cecilianists pressed for more accapella music in the reform style.

Examples of his organ music:

http://conquest.imslp.info/files/imglnks/usimg/9/9b/IMSLP05720-OrgelWerke.pdf

This link is to five separately published works, combined into one enormous PDF. There are "Preludes and Fugues" of 5 minutes or so; "Preludes" which are really short organ pieces, chorale tune based works and other voluntaries.

An example of his organ and choir writing: http://burrito.whatbox.ca:15263/imglnks/usimg/0/03/IMSLP385320-PMLP622879-Brosig op.29 ed..pdf

For those with finale, orchestra/choral works by Brosig can be found on the personal website of Martin Hoessl:

hgttp://www.mhoessl.de/html/mit orchester.html

His organ works are accessible, and in some cases though a bit demanding, are rewarding to play as well as to hear. I encourage anyone who likes the music of Mendelssohn to explore this available resource to spruce up your knowledge of German Romantic music.

-Phil Bordeleau

Need a day off?

Fort Worth AGO Chapter APPROVED SUBSTITUTES ROSTER

(As of July 19, 2015)

EMPLOYERS: To get help in finding a substitute, contact **Dale Bench, CAGO, Communications Chairman,** at: **DalePipe-Organ@sbcglobal.net**. He can send a solicitation to the entire roster and speed up the process of acquiring a substitute. Dr. Linton Powell is chairman of the Chapter's Placement and Substitutes Committee; if you have a question about the roster, you may contact him at **LintonPowell@TX.RR.com**.

The Placement and Substitutes Committee maintains this roster of qualified substitutes. The roster is published in the monthly Chapter newsletter, *Mixtures*, and is posted on the Chapter website, www.FortWorthAGO.org.

Substitutes on this roster have met the following requirements: must be a member in good standing of the Fort Worth Chapter and either have a degree relating to organ and/or piano and/or conducting, a Guild certification (SPC, CAGO, CHM, AAGO, or FAGO), or passed an audition before the Placement & Substitutes Committee.

LEGEND: Each name on the alphabetized list is followed by **qualifications** shown in parentheses (type of organ related degree, American Guild of Organists certification, or audition), and type of substitute position desired: **organist, choir director, and keyboard** (acoustic piano, electronic keyboard, harpsichord and organ manuals only). Those with an American Guild of Organists certification (SPC, CAGO, CHM, AAGO, FAGO following their name indicates the person has passed a rigorous performance examination juried by a panel of expert organists). Telephone codes: (C) cell, (H) home, (W) work. Email address (blank if none). **The roster is in two parts:**

PART 1: Substitutes available Sundays and other days of the week

PART 2: Substitutes not available Sunday mornings

PART 1. AVAILABLE SUNDAYS AND OTHER DAYS OF WEEK (alphabetized by last name)

Ed Ackermann (SPC, CAGO) – organist (C) 817-584-5591 AckermannStudio@sbcglobal.net

H. Joseph Butler (DMA, AAGO) – organist and/or choir director (W) 817-257-5333 h.j.butler@tcu.edu

Sandra Davis (BM) – organist and/or choir director (H) 972-641-8443, (C) 817-891-3559 Sandra.davis@gpisd.org

Charlene Dorsey (SPC, CAGO) – organist and/or choir director (H) 817-277-2859 dorseycpd11@msn.com

Susan Fuchs (BM, CAGO) – organist and choir director (C) 817-909-9570 susanfuchsmusic@aol.com

Claudia Fuenmayor (BM, MM) – piano only (C) 817-323-6375 claudia fernanda 15@hotmail.com



Fran Kerlin (BM, MM) – organist and/or choir director (H) 817-737-0730, (C) 817-228-1133 efkerlin@flash.net

Eugene Oehler (BA, SPC, CAGO) – organist/choir director (C) 817-366-2590 EOehler96@aol.com

Arlene Small (BM, MM) – organist and/or choir director (H) 817-548-8458 asksmall@hotmail.com

Julane Swank (BM, MM) – organist and/or choir director (H) 817-416-4913 (C) 713-553-8392 JulaneJSwank@aol.com



PART 2. NOT AVAILABLE SUNDAY MORNINGS (alphabetized by last name)

Robert August (DMA) – organist and/or choir director (C) 682-552-9765 (W) 817-335-1231 jsbach_august@yahoo.com

Dale Bench (BM, MM, SPC, CAGO) – organist and/or choir director (C) 817-584-5592 dalepipeorgan@sbcglobal.net

Collin Boothby (audition May 12, 2014) – organist and/or choir director (C) 253-509-4485 boot9135@gmail.com

Pamela Butler (BM, OD) – organist and/or choir director *(available for funerals only)* (H) 817-924-2015 pamdoc2002@yahoo.com

Alissa Davis (BM) – organist alissad74@yahoo.com

Ryan Jawad (audition 30 May 2013) – organist (C) 682-231-3966 ryanjawad@gmail.com

Elizabeth Kutz (BA, MM, SPC, CAGO) – organist and/or choir director (H)817-261-0994, (C) 817-832-4741 flutepipe@sbcglobal.net

Josh Lang (BM, audition 3 Sep 2011) – organist (C) 817-296-3726 joshua.lang@mavs.uta.edu

Doug Parsons (BM, MM) - organist and/or choir director (H) 817-428-9929 Parspiano@aol.com

Rebecca Sawyer (MM) - organist and/or choir director (C) 432-528-5982 (W) 817-335-1231 becca2.fortworth@gmail.com

Aaron Walton (SPC) – organist (C) 817-851-8286 theaaron.walton@gmail.com





2015 Fall Music Highlights

Kyla K. Rosenberger, *Director of Music & Senior Organist*Collin Boothby, *Organ Scholar* • Dan Garland organ

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Memorial Worship at 9 & 11 a.m. *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré presented by the Chancel Choir & Chamber Orchestra Directed by Dr. Christopher Aspaas, TCU Director of Choral Activities

Thursday, November 12 - Silent Movie Night at 7 p.m.

Girl Shy starring Harold Lloyd with Tom Helms, organist, of Pensacola, FL popcorn and ice cream social at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 6 - Christmas Cantata at 9 & 11 a.m.

Joy to the World by John Rutter, presented by the Chancel Choir & String Ensemble

Directed by Eric Mullins, Assistant Choirmaster

2720 S. University Dr., Fort Worth, TX 76109 • universitychristian.org

Charlene Polivka Dorsey

From Dean Kyla Rosenberger:

Many members of this chapter attended my Southwest Regional Convention workshop on newer sacred vocal solos this summer. It was held at Robert Carr Chapel and two excellent singers, Allison Whetsel Ward and Derrada Rubell-Asbell, performed an extensive set of solo excerpts. For those who were not able to attend the convention my hand-out essay reads below. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the solo bibliography please email Kyla at kyla@uccftw.com.

Thoughts on Sacred Vocal Solos

by Kyla K. Rosenberger, CAGO June 30, 2015

Preparing and playing music for the offertory portion of the worship service is a unique experience for every sacred musician. No two churches are alike in musical resources or talent. Congregations vary in their size, tradition and musical expectations. A small country church may be very pleased with a pianist playing a hymn medley by ear, while the metropolitan church with a full music staff and pipe organ may take university-trained vocalists and instrumentalists for granted.

Today you will hear two highly trained vocalists sing 35 excerpts of newer solos which have specific organ accompaniment or keyboard accompaniment that is adaptable to the organ. The descriptor "new" needs some explanation. In reaching out to dozens of music publishers asking for their newest vocal solos with organ accompaniment I realized several things about the sacred music publishing industry. In order to find fresh, original writing one must be willing to look at the publishers of many faith traditions and sort out exactly what will speak to your congregation. "New" music may actually be from decades past and is so original and fresh sounding that it seems new to today's listener. I received vocal solos from publishing houses marketing to worship experiences as diverse as Gospel, Contemporary Christian, Unitarian, Catholic, Lutheran, Christian Science, classical Spiritual, and mainstream Protestant. In culling through hundreds of songs for this workshop I decided to highlight songs with strong teaching texts and suitability for organ accompaniment. You will hear pieces both simple and complex in harmony coupled with a full range of theological texts.

Some churches may have the same type of service all 52 Sundays of the year, and others may be strictly liturgical. Sacred musicians can, and should, strive to reach their congregants with the message of their faith through many different styles of music. The messages of Advent, for instance, which tell of faithful hope and expectation in the promise of a Savior to be born, can be received through a rousing spiritual, an excerpt from a classic oratorio, a praise chorus, or ancient chant.

Of course, it must be said, a church will listen to and receive its musical sermons best when they are presented with good preparation and talent. Again, the offertory musical experience is different in each congregation's expectation. Many will be thrilled by a high school vocalist just beginning with voice lessons or with a long-time untrained member who enthusiastically sings his/her favorite hymns. Other churches want the music program to match the intensity and intellect of the pulpit with soloist, choir, instrumental and organ music of the highest caliber. Additionally, an astute church musician knows that their congregation's members' musical background and taste and capacity of appreciation has an immense range. He/she is smart to program hymns, anthems and solos of many musical genres throughout the church year. The pastor will appreciate and be affirmed by a music staff that reaches out to every congregant and visitor, young and old. While it is wise to not be too eclectic, an occasional preaching of the Gospel through a different piece of music than expected reaps the rewards of deeper attention to the text and deeper musical appreciation.

In searching for newer solos I realized a reading session of music from just the past year was not possible or advisable. Thus you will hear solos from the 1950's that are rich in musical intensity side-by-side with (continued from page 16)

fresh arrangements of ancient hymns. What is "old" may actually be quite new and challenging for your congregation. One Latin piece, for example, by Samuel Wesley, is definitely not new but has been recently discovered by a publishing company and made available for the first time.

The collection of vocal solos that are performed today come from a treasure of resources. K. Lee Scott edited, composed, and arranged a cycle of 52 vocal solos over 25 years and now offers four volumes of varied church solos. These are a sacred compilation representing all the classical periods of music and master composers. But they are a practical set because Mr. Scott knows church musicians may need to play piano or organ and work with ministers who prefer anything from Beethoven to American frontier hymns or are hunting for a song to fit a particular themed worship. Similarly, the anthology <u>To God Will I Sing</u>, compiled by Susan Palo Cherwien, offers in one volume a host of sacred song possibilities for your faith tradition with intelligent texts and lesser-known songs by the masters.

In examining so much music I also came to appreciate score production. Some publishers cater to both soloist and accompanist with great care. I was delighted to become acquainted with Darcey Press which prints on unusually heavy paper, uses a rich, clear music font, provides a vocalist and accompanist copy with each purchase, and has ingenious page folding so the accompanist never has a page turn. This is a refreshing change from poorly bound music books that will not lie flat on the music rack and have notation too faint to read or so large that one ends up with unnecessary page turning. Another nice surprise was the care James Biery took in offering organ and piano versions of each song in *The Peace of Christ*, published by Morning Star.

As you listen to these vocal solo excerpts today you will have many different thoughts appropriate to your church job. They may be: "My church would not go for King James text." "I don't have anyone right now that can sing spirituals." "Do I have money in my budget to hire a pro to sing some of these properly?" "I know that song would be a hit with my music endowment fund benefactor." "That song is perfect for Youth Sunday, but not otherwise." "That theology would have worked in my last church, but not this one." "It's not in our hymnal, but my congregation needs to know this hymn."

We are blessed to have careers which offer us the challenge of collaboration, artistry, and creativity. Good luck with your offertory music planning throughout the church year. I hope you hear at least one solo which will refresh your music ministry and bring warmth and inspiration to your congregation. May you take great joy in the process of preparation and presentation with your vocal soloist.

(Thank you, Allison Whetsel Ward and Derrada Rubell-Asbell, for your enthusiasm for sacred music and beauty of singing.)



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All rates are set by our national headquarters except Chapter Friend category which is set by the Chapter. (Every membership category goes up by \$3, with \$2 credited to the chapter.)

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Grow the Guild



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Please e-mail your submissions to Kurt Hilsabeck, our new Communications Chair, at kshilsabeck@yahoo.com, or to our new *Mixtures* Editor, Josh Lang, at Joshua.lang@mavs.uta.edu. Be sure to include all pertinent information. Pictures and e-mail links are highly desirable. It is most helpful if you will include the address of upcoming events as well as any pertinent contact information. Your editor will be most grateful since these must be researched if not included!

Submission deadline is by the 25th of September to be in the October issue.

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