



The Stopt Diapason

Spring 2004 Whole Number 83

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From the President:

Dear Chicago-Midwest OHS Member:

Spring Greetings to all!

I cannot believe that the Chapter programming season is drawing to a close! We end our season themed on "A Year of Anniversaries" with a recital by Chapter Member James Russell Brown on the historic 1914 E.M. Skinner Organ at the Music Institute of Chicago/Evanston Campus (formerly First Church of Christ, Scientist) on June 13th at 3:00 PM. You will not want to miss this program (including the presentation of an OHS Historic Organ Citation plaque) followed by a grand reception. Of course more treats are in store for that day with our Chapter's Annual Dinner and Annual Meeting to be held at the "Prairie Moon" restaurant. Please make a special invitation to your friends to attend the Chapter's festival finale!

I do want to take this opportunity to add a note of gratitude for organists Derek Nickels, Bill Shepard, Kent Jaeger and Michael David for demonstrating the various Moller organs at the March combined Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS/Chicago AGO organ crawl in Chicago. Equally deserving of thanks are the churches: Philadelphia Romanian Church of God, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Queen of Angels RC Church and St. Matthias RC Church and their clergy for letting us hear the organs and see the diversity of unique church architecture in Chicago. Indeed, we are also grateful to Beth Naegele and the Fourth Presbyterian Church for the use of their church bus for our transportation for the day!

I would also be remiss if I did not mention our many, many thanks for the financial support from our Chapter members and the devoted hard work of our Board members.

I hope that all of you are planning on attending the 2004 OHS Convention in Buffalo, New York! (Chapter members Derek Nickels and Stephen Schnurr are featured recitalists!)

P.S. – do not forget the added Summer Event at the residence of Philip and Diane Underwood in Rensselaer on Saturday August 21st from noon to 4:00 PM!

See you at the next Chapter events and the Convention!

Bob Woodworth Jr.
President, Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS

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REMAINING CHAPTER EVENT FOR 2003-2004

Sunday, June 13, 2004, 3:00 p.m., a recital for the ninetieth anniversary of the 1914 Skinner opus 208, three-manuals in the Music Institute of Chicago (formerly First Church of Christ, Scientist), Evanston. *Further information will be found elsewhere in this issue of The Stopt Diapason.*

CALENDAR OF AREA EVENTS

If you know of an organ event in the chapter area which should be announced, please send notice to the editors (addresses are found elsewhere in this issue):

- 1) Sunday, June 6, 2004, 1:30 p.m., Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church, 600 West Fullerton Parkway, Chicago, presents Christine Kraemer in recital on the 1888 Johnson & Son organ of two-manuals. The program will include works by Bach, Reger, Hindemith and Franck. Admission is free. (Park West Antique Fair event—take the "L" to Fullerton.)
- 2) Sunday, June 20, through Friday, June 25, the Fox Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents a Pipe Organ Encounter. Various events include the following: Monday, June 21, 7:30 p.m., Silent Movie, "Phantom of the Opera" with Todd Wilson at Edman Chapel (this is not a function of Wheaton College, suggested Donation: \$10; Students, AGO Members, and Seniors: \$5; Family: \$25); Tuesday, June 22, 8:00 p.m., Organ Concert by Douglas Cleveland at Saint Raphael Catholic Church, 1215 Modaff Road, Naperville (suggested Donation: \$10; Students, AGO Members, and Seniors: \$5; Family: \$25).
- 3) Wednesday, July 14, through Tuesday, July 20, 2004, the Organ Historical Society National Convention to be held in the Buffalo, New York, metropolitan region. Featured organs include work by E. M. Skinner, Æolian-Skinner, Schlicker Organ Company, Johnson & Son, George S. Hutchings, Wurlitzer, and others. Featured recitalists include Frederick Swann, Ken Cowan, Thomas Murray, Felix Hell, as well as Chicago-area organists, David Schrader, Derek Nickels, Rhonda Sider Edgington, and Stephen Schnurr. For registration materials, contact the OHS National Office in Richmond, Virginia, telephone (804) 353-9226, fax (804) 353-9266, or visit the website at www.organsociety.com.

LOOKING AHEAD: SELECTED CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2004-2005

- 1) Saturday, August 21, 2004, Noon until 4:00 p.m., Open House at the residence of Phil and Diane Underwood, featuring the 1921 Wurlitzer opus 471, 5389 North State Road 49, Rensselaer, Indiana.
Directions to the Underwood Residence: *From the Indiana Toll Road (Interstate 90) or Interstate 80/94, exit at Indiana State Road 49 South. Proceed South past Valparaiso and Kouts, and Wheatfield. The house is on the left (East) side of State Road 49*
- 2) Sunday, September 26, 2004, 4:00 p.m., Autumn Organ Recital at the Greenstone United Methodist Church of Chicago, South Saint Lawrence Avenue and East 112th Street, Chicago, Illinois. The featured recitalist will be immediate past Chapter President, William Aylesworth. The organ was built in 1882 by Steere & Turner, a two-manual, 21 stops, 23 ranks, mechanical action instrument. A free-will offering will be accepted for ongoing restoration of this historic instrument. *Further information will be forthcoming in the next issue.*
Directions to the Greenstone Church: *From the Bishop Louis Henry Ford Freeway, formerly the Calumet Expressway (Interstate 94), exit 115th Street West. At McDonald's Restaurant (on right or North side of street), turn right (North) on Saint Lawrence Avenue. Proceed to 112th Street, where church is on right (East) side of street. Parking is on the street.*
- 3) A Saturday in October 2004 (date to be announced), Annual Autumn Organ Crawl, to be conducted in the La Grange, Illinois, area. *Further information in an upcoming issue of The Stopt Diapason.*
- 4) A Saturday in March 2005 (date to be announced), Annual Spring Organ Crawl, to be co-sponsored by the Chicago Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. This event will take place on the North Side of Chicago. This year's instrument selection will feature vintage Kilgen organs from various periods. *Further information in a future edition of The Stopt Diapason*

OBITUARY

THELMA "MIM" W. (WINTERS) DAVIS, of Reno, Nevada, passed away on Palm Sunday, April 4, 2004. Mim was a native of Shiocton, Wisconsin. In 1935, she married William H. Davis, who predeceased her. She attended DePaul University of Chicago, majoring in sociology and psychology, and later worked at the Executive Service Corps of Chicago. A long-time resident of the Pullman neighborhood of Chicago, Illinois, Mim was organist for many years at the former Pullman (now

Greenstone) United Methodist Church, until moving to Reno in 2000. Mim was also active in the church's Vacation Bible School and served on numerous church boards and committees. Mim suffered from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and rheumatoid arthritis. Many Chapter members will remember her fondly for her loving care of the 1882 Steere & Turner organ of her church, featured at the 1984 and 2002 National Conventions of the Organ Historical Society. Memorial services were held on April 17 at the First United Methodist Church of Reno, Nevada.

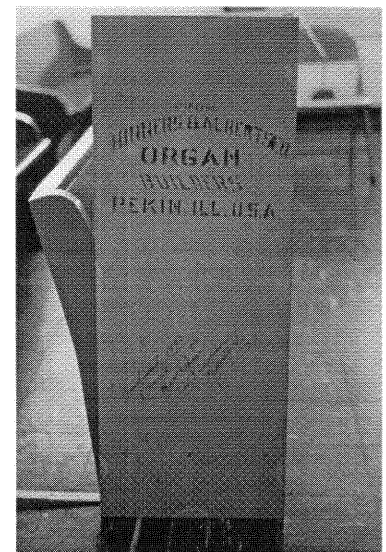
BUFFALO CONVENTION PREVIEW

STEPHEN SCHNURR

The 2004 National Convention of the Organ Historical Society will take place in the Buffalo, New York, metropolitan area from Wednesday, July 14, through Tuesday, July 20. Headquarters will be at the Adam's Mark Hotel in downtown Buffalo. Further information regarding the Convention can be found by contacting the Organ Historical Society (see Calendar of Area Events for contact information).

On Monday, July 19, the Convention will travel to area rural communities like Wolcottsville, where a significant and historic example of Illinois organbuilding will be featured. The one-manual organ of the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church was built in 1897 by Hinners & Albertsen of Pekin, Illinois. The recital will be played by Chapter member MaryAnn Crugher Balduf. The organ will be presented with the Society's Historic Organ Citation.

On the following page, photographs of the Hinners & Albertsen organ in Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Wolcottsville, New York: left, organ's façade; center, the nameplate on the keydesk; right, the enclosure door is removed for inspection. Photographs by the author.



ORGAN NEWS

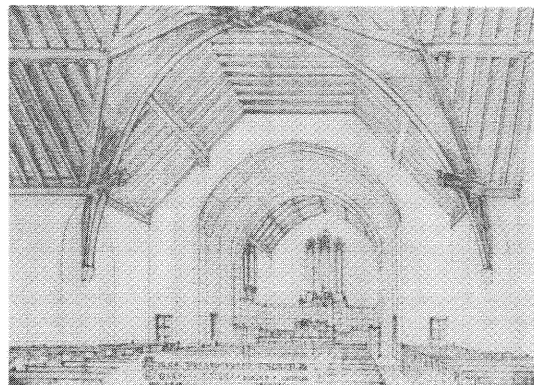
COMPILED BY STEPHEN SCHNURR

The 1920's Geneva pipe organ formerly located in the **Oehler Funeral Home** of Des Plaines, Illinois, is now destined for Divine Peace Lutheran Church of Garland, a northeast suburb of Dallas, Texas, as reported by Chapter member, John Shanahan, who fought for the organ's safe removal before demolition of the funeral home. The organ will be rebuilt and enlarged by Rick Mathews of Dallas. *[Taken from e-mail from Shanahan, Wednesday, April 7, 2004.]*

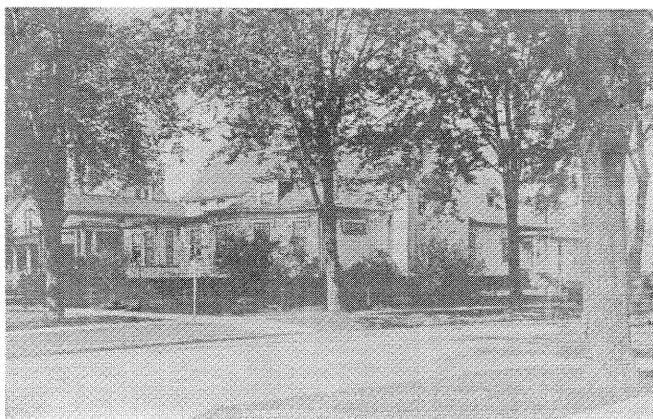
The First United Presbyterian Church, West Sixth Avenue and Monroe Street, Gary, Indiana, is in the process of being sold for \$5.00 to the First Assembly of God of Hammond. The Presbytery of Wabash Valley voted on Tuesday, April 27, to sell the historic neo-Gothic structure built as the First Presbyterian Church in 1913 and rebuilt in 1948 after a fire. Membership of the congregation, once the largest of any Presbyterian congregation in Northwest Indiana, has dwindled in recent decades. The building was home to 1913 Hinners opus 1662, a large, two-manual organ now in Saint Charles Borromeo Catholic Church of Portland, Oregon, 1941 Austin opus 2043, a three-manual instrument which burned with the sanctuary in 1948, and 1924 Skinner opus 424, a three-manual organ built for the Chicago residence of William E. Zeuch

and later in the Theodore G. Robinson residence of Lake Forest, Illinois. A. R. Temple & Associates rebuilt the Skinner for the Gary installation. The Skinner organ was removed for an Allen electronic substitute c. 1967, which remains in the building.

Information regarding First United Presbyterian Church was gathered from "Faithful protest sale of their Gary Church," Sharlonda L. Waterhouse, in the Gary Post-Tribune, Wednesday, April 28, 2004, and The Stopt Diapason, whole issue 59, pages 11-16.



On the preceding page: architectural renderings of the interior and exterior of the First Presbyterian Church of Gary, Indiana, reproduced from a congregational brochure, c. 1948, from the collection of Stephen Schnurr.



Above, real photo postcard views of two buildings which housed the former First Church of Christ, Scientist, Evanston, now the Music Institute of Chicago's Evanston campus and site of the June event of the Chapter: left, an earlier church on the present site, which housed Lyon & Healy opus 102 (factory number 1357), installed in 1902; right: the present edifice. From the collection of Stephen Schnurr.

FOX VALLEY AGO CHAPTER PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER TO INCLUDE VISIT TO CHICAGO'S SCOTTISH RITE CATHEDRAL

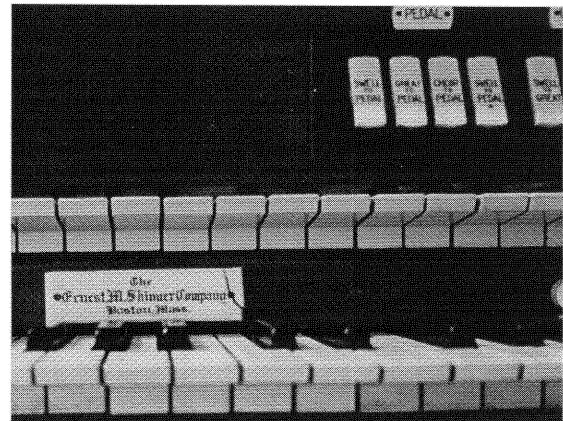
The Fox Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is sponsoring a Pipe Organ Encounter for area youth in June. (Further details can be found in the Calendar of Area Events section.) The Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the OHS is pleased to note that on Wednesday, June 23, the POE will visit an historic organ in or near the Chicago Loop (still being planned as this is written), during an organ crawl. Chapter Board members will be on hand to greet participants and to discuss the OHS and its many activities.

The Chicago-Midwest OHS Chapter is also pleased to donate \$100.00 to this Pipe Organ Encounter.

**NINETIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SKINNER ORGAN IN EVANSTON TO BE FETED
WITH A RECITAL AND PRESENTATION OF OHS HISTORIC ORGAN CITATION
SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2004, 3:00 P.M.**

COMPILED BY STEPHEN SCHNURR

The oldest playable Skinner organ in Illinois will be celebrated at the close of the Chicago-Midwest Chapter's year of Celebration of Anniversaries. The site is the Nichols Concert Hall of the Music Institute of Chicago's Evanston campus, located at Chicago and Grove Avenues, and housed in the building which for many years the home of First Church of Christ, Scientist. The ninety-year-old organ will be featured in recital on Sunday afternoon, June 13, beginning at 3:00 p.m. The afternoon's activities will include presentation of the prestigious Historic Organ Citation by the Organ Historical Society. The featured recitalist will be Chapter member James R. Brown, Vice-President of the Evanston operations of the Music Institute of Chicago.



Above, photographs of the Nichols Concert Hall of the Music Institute of Chicago's Evanston campus: left, the interior of the Hall; right, the nameplate and portion of the coupler rail of the 1914 Skinner organ. Photographs by the author.

Brown holds degrees from Oberlin and New England Conservatories in organ performance. His principal teachers have included Yuko Hayashi, David Boe, and William Porter (organ), and Lisa Goode Crawford, William Porter, and Lenora McCroskey (harpsichord). As a performer, he has been presented in recital at the Washington National Cathedral, Harvard University, the University of Vermont, the University of Connecticut, Stetson University, and the Methuen (Massachusetts) Summer Organ Series, among others. In Chicago, he has appeared with The City Musick, Chicago Baroque Ensemble, His Majesty's Clerkes, and Bach Week in Evanston. He is Vice President for Evanston Operations and Head of the Keyboard Division at the Music Institute of Chicago, and also serves as Organist/Director of Music for Saint Giles Episcopal Church, Northbrook.

The recitalist has selected the following program (subject to change):

from **Symphonie VI**, Opus 42 (c. 1880)
I. Allegro

Charles-Marie Widor
(1844-1937)

from **Symphonie Gothique**, Opus 70 (1895)
II. Andante sostenuto

Widor

Meditation (1914)

Rossetter Gleason Cole
(1866-1952)

Organist of First Church of Christ Scientist, Evanston, from 1909-1929

Sicilienne

Maria Theresia von Paradis
(1759-1824)

Concerto in G Major, BWV 592 (1713-1714)

Arrangement of concerto by Duke Johann Ernst of Saxe-Weimar

Johann Sebastian Bach

(1685-1750)

- I. (Allegro)
- II. Grave
- III. Presto

from **Eleven Chorale Preludes, Op. 122 (1896)**

- I. Mein Jesu, der du mich

Johannes Brahms

(1833-1897)

Scherzo

Eugène Gigout

(1844-1925)

Prelude and Fugue in B Major, Opus 7 (1912)

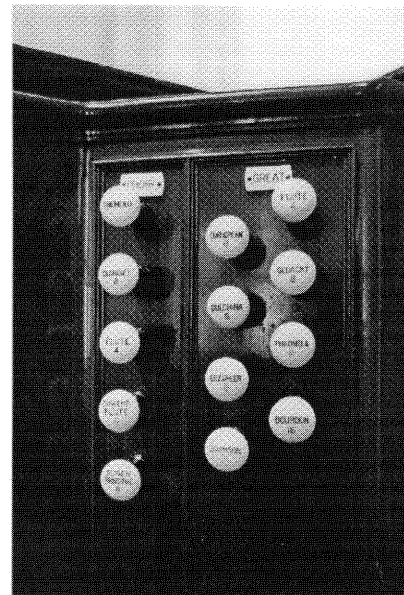
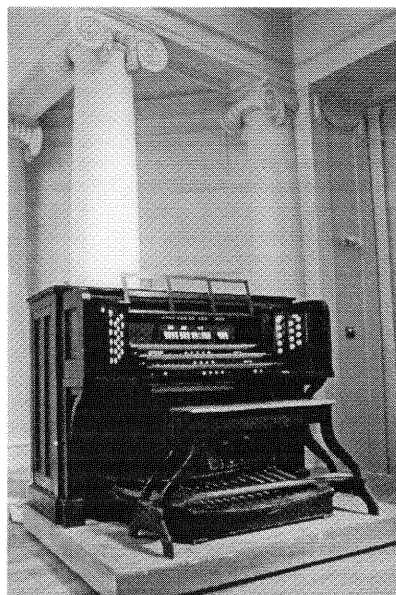
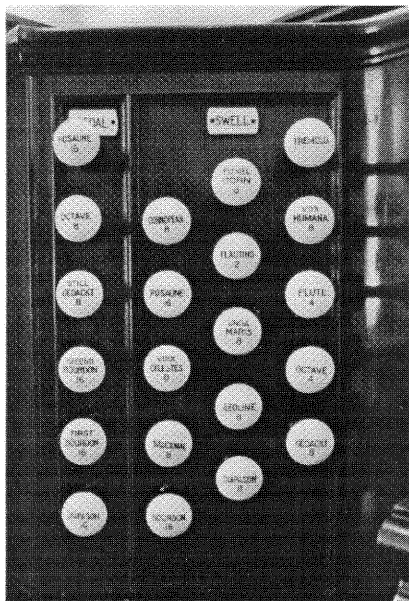
Marcel Dupré

(1886-1971)

Chapter members will fondly remember visiting First Church and its organ during an annual Autumn Organ Crawl on Saturday, October 23, 1999. A history of the building as a church, and its Lyon & Healy and Skinner organs, can be found in *The Stopt Diapason*, whole issue 65, Autumn 1999, pages 22 through 26. That history is not repeated here. (The Lyon & Healy organ, as noted in issue 65, was removed to storage years ago and awaits a new home.)

The Christian Science Church had vacated the building in 2001, having sold it to the Music Institute of Chicago. Renovations of the building occurred beginning in 2002, by which time the organ had been carefully and reasonably silenced and protected for construction work. Thus, regrettably, the organ was not available for us to hear during the 2002 National Convention of the Organ Historical Society. The following year, the magnificently renovated building had been reopened for new use, and the organ was made playable again by the Bradford Organ Company of Evanston.

The building, designed by Solon Spencer Beman of Chicago, retains its exquisite and distinguishing features. The Music Institute has respected both exterior and interior features, and only slight alterations have been made, in utmost respect and harmony with the past. For this, the Institute was awarded the prestigious Richard H. Driehaus Award for creative reuse of the building. The pews of the auditorium, seating 550 persons, have been restored. Even the chairs from the Board of Directors' room and the Readers' Platform have been retained and reused in a respectful manner. The structure is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Truly, a happy second life for this building.



Above, photographs of the Skinner organ: left, the Swell and Pedal stopjamb; center, console onstage; right, the Choir and Great stopjamb. Photographs by the author.

The specification of the 1914 Ernest M. Skinner Co. organ, opus 208, is corrected and repeated here below:

Specification of 1914 Ernest M. Skinner Co. opus 208:

GREAT ORGAN (Manual II)

- 16 Bourdon (wood and metal—61 pipes total)
- 8 Diapason (metal—61 pipes)
- 8 Philomela (wood—73 pipes)
- 8 Erzähler (metal—61 pipes)
- 8 Gedackt (from Swell, 8' Gedackt)
- 8 Dulciana (from Swell, 8' Aeoline)
- 4 Flute (from Swell, 4' Flute)
- 8 Cornopean (from Swell, 8' Cornopean)

on rocker tablets above Swell manual:

- 4 Octave (addition, metal—61 pipes)
- 2-2/3 Twelfth (addition, metal—61 pipes)
- 2 Fifteenth (addition, metal—61 pipes)

SWELL ORGAN (Manual III, Enclosed)

- 16 Bourdon (wood—73 pipes)
- 8 Diapason (metal—73 pipes)
- 8 Gedackt (wood—73 pipes)
- 8 Salicional (metal—73 pipes)
- 8 Voix Celestes (metal—73 pipes)
- 8 Aeoline (metal—73 pipes)
- 8 Unda Maris (from tenor C, metal—61 pipes)
- 4 Octave (metal—73 pipes)

COUPLERS

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Great to Pedal 8 | Great to Great 4 |
| Swell to Pedal 8 | Swell to Great 16 |
| Swell to Pedal 4 | Swell to Great 8 |
| Choir to Pedal 8 | |

ACCESSORIES

- 4 Great Pistons (thumb)
- 4 Choir Pistons (thumb)
- Great to Pedal Reversible (toe)
- Pedals to Swell Combinations on/off (thumb)
- Combination Setter (thumb)
- Choir Expression Shoe
- Sforzando Reversible (toe, hitchdown)

Swell (continued)

- 4 Flute (metal—73 pipes)
- 2 Flautino (metal—61 pipes)
- 16 Posaune (metal—73 pipes)
- 8 Cornopean (metal—73 pipes)
- 8 Flügel Horn (metal—73 pipes)
- 8 Vox Humana (metal—61 pipes)
- Tremolo

CHOIR ORGAN (Manual III—Enclosed)

- 8 Geigen Principal (metal—61 pipes)
- 8 Concert Flute (wood and metal—61 pipes)
- 4 Flute (metal—61 pipes)
- 8 Clarinet (metal—61 pipes)
- Tremolo

PEDAL ORGAN

- 16 Diapason (extension, Great, 8' Philomela)
- 16 First Bourdon (from Great, 16' Bourdon)
- 16 Second Bourdon (from Swell, 16' Bourdon)
- 8 Octave (from Great, 8' Philomela)
- 8 Still Gedackt (from Swell, 16' Bourdon)
- 16 Posaune (from Swell, 16' Posaune)

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Swell to Great 4 | Swell to Choir 8 |
| Choir to Great 16 | Swell to Swell 16 |
| Choir to Great 8 | Swell to Swell 4 |

Manual compass is 61 notes (C-C); pedal compass is 30 notes (C-F).

DIRECTIONS

From the Chicago Loop: take Lake Shore Drive north 8 miles until it ends at Hollywood Avenue (5700 North). Turn right (north) on Sheridan Road (1000 West) and continue into Evanston. Continue to follow Sheridan Road a total of 4.6 miles until the traffic light at Dempster Street. Turn left (west) on Dempster and proceed three blocks (3/10 miles) to traffic light at Chicago Avenue. Turn right (north) and go three blocks (3/10 mile) to Grove Avenue. The Music Institute will be on the near left (southwest) corner (1490 Chicago Avenue). Parking is on the street. *Estimated travel time from the Loop to Evanston: 24 minutes.*

CHAPTER ANNUAL DINNER & ANNUAL MEETING
June 13, 2004 - 5:30 PM

All Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS members and guests are reminded to attend the Chapter Annual Dinner and Chapter Annual Meeting following James Russell Brown's recital at the Music Institute of Chicago/Evanston Campus. This year the festive dinner will be held at the "*Prairie Moon*" restaurant – located just one block behind the Music Institute of Chicago. "*Prairie Moon*" is located at 1502 Sherman Avenue in Evanston (telephone: 847-864-8328). As the review in the Chicago Tribune newspaper notes:

"Head to Evanston's *Prairie Moon* for classic cocktails and all-American dishes including Colorado brook trout, Napa mustard festival steak and cedar-planked salmon. The dessert list features classics such as Texas sheet cake and apple pecan crumble."

Remember to invite your friends to the recital and dinner. For reservations, please contact Chapter Secretary Derek Nickels at 847-251-6120 or denickels@holyccomforter.org.

CHICAGO-MIDWEST CHAPTER SUMMER EVENT
SATURDAY AUGUST 21, 2004, NOON TO 4:00 PM

By popular demand, the Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS Board has scheduled a repeat Summer Event performance for Saturday August 21, 2004. Philip and Diane Underwood of Rensselaer, Indiana, have graciously invited all Chapter members and guests to return to their estate for a grand cookout and to see the various additions and works in progress of their fabulous collection of historical keyboard instruments. You will remember from last summer that their 1921 Wurlitzer opus 421 was presented with an OHS Historic Organ Citation. Other instruments in the collection at that time included a 1923 Estey Reed Organ, a 1900 Vocalian Chapel Model reed organ, an 1876 Knabe Square piano and a 1924 Marshall Wendall upright piano with Ampico player mechanism. Phil notes that there have been several additions to the collection including the restoration of a Kimball Parlor organ, the Kimball Double Open Diapasons, restoration of Chicago's Kedzie Theatre Kimball console – and lastly continued work on the new music room.

The Underwoods will supply the grille long with hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, salads and all the trimmings. Chapter members and guests are requested to bring their favorite buffet dishes, desserts and beverages. Please spread the word to all Chapter members and friends to make this an exciting Chapter Summer Event! Please contact Chapter Secretary Derek Nickels at 847-251-6120 or denickels@holyccomforter.org to make your reservations.

THE SPRING ORGAN CRAWL ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CHICAGO

Saturday, March 20, 2004: A Review

BY DEREK NICKELS

Close to thirty members from the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society and the Chicago Chapter of the American Guild of Organists enjoyed a delightful day of hearing and exploring organs on Chicago's North Side. The weather, which usually makes or breaks the day, cooperated in our favor. The crawl featured organs built by M. P. Möller from 1922 to 1963.

After starting the crawl with an example of Möller's work from 1922 at the Philadelphia Romanian Church of God (built as Fourteenth Church of Christ, Scientist), we jumped ahead 41 years to hear an example from 1963. Ebenezer Lutheran Church provided an intriguing array of history from its Swedish heritage and neighborhood history of Andersonville. Chicago-Midwest OHS Chapter President Robert Woodworth once served this "Swedish Cathedral" of the Midwest with distinction. Its present musician, Bill Shephard, demonstrated the 1963 Möller with Felix Mendelssohn's Sonata Number 2 in C minor, opus 65, number 2. Placed behind a grill above and around the altar area, the organ's sound is strongly felt throughout the church.

After lunch (since it was breakfast for some of us, it should be considered brunch) on our own in Andersonville, we returned to our tour at Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church in the Lincoln Square neighborhood. This church's sleek features from the Art Deco era yields some stunning acoustics. This entirely enclosed Möller from 1939 is housed in two gridded chambers high on the back wall of the church. The host organist, Kent Jaeger, performed something we had just heard, Felix Mendelssohn's Sonata Number 2 in C minor, opus 65, number 2! The contrast of voicing between Queen of Angels and Ebenezer was night and day. The bright Neo-Baroque sounds of Ebenezer had evolved a long way from the dark and rich orchestral flutes and strings found at Queen of Angels. Two of the more ravishing stops at Queen of Angels (the room undoubtedly helped!) were the Claribel Flute on the Great and the Concert Flute on the Choir. The unit reed found in the Pedal (on 9" of wind) had a tremendous effect as it rolled out into the room!

The final stop on this crawl was only a few blocks away at Saint Matthias Catholic Church on Ainslie and Claremont Avenues. A Möller from 1929 was waiting for our arrival, appreciation, and hopefully, some restorative work in the future. Placed in the rear gallery, the elegant carved oak case was something to be seen! While most of this instrument was not playable, Michael David agreed to demonstrate a few select sounds: a 16' Diaphone in the Pedal of enormous proportions, some very narrow sounding strings and a lovely Quintadena. While we weren't able to hear nearly as much as the previous instruments, it was still a joy to see this instrument. The case and console were both elegantly appointed and deserved to be seen! It was also fascinating to experience the progression of musical tastes and thought found in one organbuilding firm.



CORNELIA AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHICAGO SEEKS ORGANIST

Cornelia Avenue Baptist Church, West Cornelia Avenue and North Paulina Street, Chicago, seeks an organist for the first Sunday of each month to play for morning services. For further information, please contact the Reverend Arlee Powell, Pastor, 773-561-5546.

Musette's Musings

Aaaahhhhhhhhh.....Spring has finally arrived with the warm weather and sunny days - and rainy days like today! WAIT - spring arrived several weeks ago but you would never know it - because of the weather - but now it finally feels like the wonderful spring weather that Chicago is accustomed to!

The choir season in most of our churches is drawing to an end with many performances of special choral programs, Bach cantatas and Music Appreciation Sundays. I trust that you and your choral activities in church are ending on a "high note"!

Since my last column on musical treats of the Chicago area and the 2003 OHS National Convention highlights of Central Pennsylvania, here are some "Musings " of recent programs:

March 20th - bright and early on this beautiful Saturday morning over 35 organ enthusiasts gathered at the Philadelphia Romanian Church of God in Chicago - the first stop on the combined Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS/Chicago AGO Spring Organ Crawl. This popular event draws more people each year. The Romanian congregation has restored this former Fourteenth Church of Christ, Scientist Church to its former glory. The day began rather auspiciously when it appeared that all of the church doors were locked and no one around to let us in. After waiting several long minutes, we did find several church maintenance staff who opened the doors and let the large group in. What a glorious site to behold - the restored room with the 1922 Moller Organ in the center of the room with the console on a small balcony above the former Reader's Platform. Now came the next big undertaking - turning the organ on! After what seemed like eternity, Phil Underwood came to the rescue with finding the right circuit breaker. Now we were set! Of course while we were waiting during all of the commotion, several of us made the trip up the very narrow stairway and through the 4-foot high door to the organ console balcony - how unusual for a Christian Science church! With just a little dust on the keys, the Moller console looked as good as the day it was installed! I cannot believe how this console matches the high-class E. M. Skinner consoles of the same era! At long last Chapter member Derek Nickels was able to play a few notes on this unusual organ and led the assembled group in the Mary Baker Eddy hymn tune "Satisfied" (*It matters not what be thy lot, So Love doth guide; For storm or shine, pure peace is thine, What e'er be tide.*) Group pictures by ace photographer Stephen Schnurr closed out this stop on the crawl.

Just a few blocks northward on Foster Avenue stands the majestic Swedish Cathedral of Chicago - Ebenezer Lutheran Church. After a few words of welcome from Pastor Paul Koch, OHS Chapter member Bill Shepard filled the church with mighty sounds from the 1963 Moller Organ with the movements of the Mendelssohn Sonata III. Putting the organ through its paces, Mr. Shepard invited everyone to sing all of the verses of the Lenten hymn "O Sacred Head Now Wounded". Ebenezer Lutheran Church has been at the heart of

this Swedish community of "Andersonville" since the late 1800's. With services conducted exclusively in the Swedish language for decades and still today at certain Christmas services, Ebenezer was the host to King Carl XVI Gustave of Sweden at its 1976 Easter Sunday service. Since ample time was available, several organ enthusiasts were able to "tickle the ivories" on their favorite pieces.

Since the weather on this Saturday was extremely warm, most of the "crawlers" walked the block and a half to Clark Street for a leisurely lunch. With over 40+ restaurants to choose from in this Andersonville neighborhood, I joined several others in dining at a relatively new establishment on the north end of this unique area - "M Henry (Chow for Now)". I particularly enjoyed the brunch crepe with fresh fruit - and, of course, rum!

Back to the bus and then southward on Western Avenue to Queen of Angels Roman Catholic Church. Here in this large edifice built to serve Irish and German families is housed a 1939 Moller Organ. Interestingly enough, the Moller Organ Co. built an earlier organ in 1925 for the lower church to serve while the upper church was being built. Unfortunately that organ has disappeared from the complex. After introductions and comments, host Organist and Director of Music for the parish Kent Jaeger proceeded to play sections of Mendelssohn's Sonata II - this must be a Mendelssohn day! While several "crawlers" took time to view the rich architectural features of the church, others demonstrated the various and full powers of this organ in a very resonant room. Unfortunately the organ console has experienced some damage over the years, but musician Jaeger explains that there are plans in the making for considerable work on the organ and console. Good Luck Kent!

Again, just a few blocks north and our bus arrives at the imposing Roman Catholic Church of St. Matthias - our last stop of the day. In the rear gallery stands the majestic 1929 Moller Organ - probably the only (if not one of the few) encased Moller organ in a Roman Catholic church in the Chicago area. After everyone was seated in the backless choir stalls in the gallery, Chapter member Michael David demonstrated this unique organ with a few notes here and there on the stops that worked. Having fallen during a recent trip to New York City, David still played on with his arm in a sling - hooray for Mike! Again, since there was ample time left, several "crawlers" had a chance to play the organ and marvel at the piston setter mechanism. Others had the opportunity to view the adjacent gallery of historic photographs of St. Matthias. It was interesting to note - the more that our group members played - the more of the organ worked! We all hope that this church finds the support necessary in the future to restore this organ to its former glory!

What a glorious day of music and beautiful weather and the ability to see this treasury of historic churches in Chicago! I must not forget to mention that Beth Naegele and the Chicago Chapter AGO was instrumental in arranging for our bus transportation of the day provided by the auspices of Fourth Presbyterian Church. Chapter kudos to Derek Nickels, Bill Shepard, Kent Jaeger and Mike David for taking the time to visit these churches and provide us with the wonderful music of the day!

So many exciting musical events have been presented over the last few months and performed by many of our Chapter members. However, I have been totally immersed in

working on a few very special projects and was unable to attend them, but my good and close friend "Aeolina" was kind enough to go in my place and report on them.

March 5th - Aeolina took a short bus ride and arrived at Fourth Presbyterian Church to hear Chapter member Thom Gouwens play a recital of music by Marcel Dupre, Franz Liszt and Leo Sowerby. Mr. Gouwens, Associate Organist/Choirmaster at Fourth, delighted the assembled audience with his ability to weave through all of the notes effortlessly. You will remember that Thom played the Vierne pieces at the members program in January at the Church of the Holy Comforter in Kenilworth.

March 26th - Aeolina was able to get a ride from a Chapter member to hear another Chapter member Jason Alden play a program at Elmhurst College. His program included works by Padre Antonio Soler, William Byrd and Billy Strayhorn. Aeolina notes that all organ concerts should include a Strayhorn piece to add spice! You will remember Jason's excellent performance on the Steinmeyer Organ at Holy Family RC Church during the 2002 OHS National Convention in Chicago.

April 6th - Aeolina made a trip to the very historic Holy Rosary RC Church on the near West Side of Chicago to attend the Lenten Seder meal followed by the organ recital by Chapter member Joseph Fitzer. In the second installment of his recitals at Holy Rosary, Fitzer played unique Lenten themed music by Lebeque (Stabat Mater), Frescobaldi (Toccata and Canzona), W. G. Still (Reverie and Elegy), settings of "O Sacred Head" by Peeters, Bach and Rheinberger, and settings of "The Royal Banners Forward Go" by Fleury, van Hulse and Peeters. One of the very interesting pieces on the program was the "Improvisation of a Swedish Passiontide Theme" by Gustaf Hagg. What a fitting evening to enjoy the music and food of Holy Week!

April 18th - after what seemed to be a very long ride to Indiana, Aeolina finally found the Cathedral of the Holy Angels in Gary for the annual spring concert of the Cathedral Arts Concert Series. Chapter member Stephen Schnurr played the Casavant organ in organ works of Buxtehude (Toccata in D minor), Bach (Fantasia super Komm, Heiliger Geist) and Sweelinck (Balletto del granduca). Schnurr also accompanied the robust singing of soprano Kimberly Jones in the works of Mozart (Exsultate, Jubilate), Handel (I Know That My Redeemer Liveth), MacGimsey (Sweet Little Jesus Boy) and Hale Smith (This Little Light of Mine). This program was a delight to hear in the grand acoustics of Holy Angels Cathedral!

April 25th - knowing that the day would be long and fast, Aeolina rented a car for the day! After morning church, Aeolina made the trip to the west side of Chicago to the Basilica of Our Lady of Sorrows. As usual, the "Lyon" roared (1902 Lyon and Healy Organ - that is!) with organist and Chapter member Mary Gifford at the throttle! Ms Gifford's program included works of Stanford (Four Bible Songs - Peace, Hope, Trust and Wisdom), Luard-Selby (Fantasia Sonata on the "Dies Irae"), Britten (Canticle II - Abraham and Isaac), and Smart (Andante Grazioso, Offertory and Postlude). Tenor Martin Padzioch assisted in the program with the Gregorian Chant "Dies Irae", the Panis Angelicus of Franck and the Ave Maria of Schubert. Contralto Cynthia Mace also joined the duo in the Franck. Here again was a unique program in the spacious acoustics of Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica!

April 25th - with not a moment to spare, Aeolina darted to Chicago's north side to the little octagonal church on the corner, Cornelia Avenue Baptist Church, to hear longtime OHS Chapter friend Arthur Griffin play the 1905 Lyon and Healy Organ. Imagine that - hearing two Chicago produced Lyon and Healy Organs on the same afternoon! For many years, Mr. Griffin has been the organist of the mighty Kimball organ at the First Congregational/Baptist Church of Chicago. His program included the works of Byrd (Pavane - the Earle of Salisbury), Clerambault (Prelude in D Minor), Bach (C Major Fugue) and Mozart (Adagio from the Glass Harmonica). Joining Mr. Griffin in several Hymns of Faith was soprano Helen Marie Wallace. Prior to the offering for continued organ restoration was the organ/piano duet "I've Just Seen Jesus". What a lovely way to close out this full afternoon of music centered on Lyon and Healy organs! I cannot believe that this organ will be 100 next year!

I hope that all of you will join me in traveling to Buffalo, New York this year from Wednesday July 14th through Tuesday July 20th, 2004 for the 49th Annual Convention of the Organ Historical Society! Our own Chicago area organists and Chapter members, David Schrader, Derek Nickels, Rhonda Sider Edgington and Stephen Schnurr will be some of the featured recitalists!

I would be remiss if I did not mention the closing events for this season of the Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS:

June 13th - 3:00 PM - Annual Spring Recital

Organist James Russell Brown in recital on the 1914 E. M. Skinner Organ at the Music Institute of Chicago/Evanston Campus (formerly First Church of Christ, Scientist of Evanston) - celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the organ!

June 13th - 5:30 PM - Annual Chapter Dinner/Annual Meeting

The Annual Chapter Dinner will be held at the "Prairie Moon" Restaurant in Evanston located at 1502 Sherman Avenue in Evanston (just one block behind the Music Institute of Chicago!

August 21st - Noon to 4:00 PM - Summer Event

The Summer Event of viewing the collection of historic instruments at the estate of Philip and Diane Underwood in Rensselaer, Indiana - and food!
See details elsewhere in this newsletter!

I look forward to seeing you in June, July and August!!!!!!

As always.....

Musette.....

The Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the monetary gifts of the following persons in addition to their annual chapter dues (as of May 17, 2004, for the 2003 - 2004 year):

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