

The Tracker

A publication of the
Knoxville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Knoxville, Tennessee

www.knoxago.org

September 2011

KAGO 2011 Programs



“Music speaks what cannot be expressed, soothes the mind and gives it rest, heals the heart and makes it whole, flows from heaven to the soul.”

5

Area Musical Events



A listing of concerts and recitals offered or sponsored by members in our area.

6

Pedagogy Conference 2011



10th Annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival presented in conjunction with the 16th annual AGO Conference on Organ Pedagogy.

9

FRANZ LISZT

OCTOBER 22, 1811 – JULY 31, 1886



Join us September 12 as we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Franz Liszt.

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.





FROM THE DEAN

Welcome to another year of the wonderful world of AGO. I hope your summer was both restful and filled with inspiration.

Have you paid your dues? Please tend to this important matter soon. Thank you for your support.

To John Brock and all of last year's officers and committee members, I extend a hearty thank you for a job well done. It will give me great pleasure to present John his Past Dean's pin at the September meeting.

Our Scholarship Committee is hard at work bringing organization to the Brock funds. They are in the process of investing the money so we may offer students now and in

the future opportunities to study. Your generous support is appreciated and needed.

By the way, have you made your meal reservation for September? Call Jim Garvey now. You have the opportunity of making a standing reservation for the entire year, if you wish.

AGO is a great organization and your attendance and participation at our meetings is the reason. See you on September 12.

Charles Parham

2011/2012 SUB LIST

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The names on this list are so invaluable to those who hold regular jobs but occasionally need someone to fill that important position. If you desire to be added to this list please email our Registrar, Sandi Henry at sandi1957@gmail.com. We will continue to update this list and print it in the newsletter each month.



The Organ Works Of Franz Liszt

Cedar Springs Presbyterian Church
9132 Kingston Pike
Knoxville, TN

6:30 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Program

Although Franz Liszt's organ music is still relatively unknown, the widely-differing genres it represents nevertheless include some genuine masterpieces. Two of the works are on a grand scale: the *Variations on Ad nos, ad salutarem undam* and the *Prelude and Fugue on the name of BACH*, as well as a third piano piece, transcribed by the composer for organ, *Variations on Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen*. However, there are many other pieces; some are original, if rather modest and reflect a different outlook: they are sometimes meditative, requiring little in the way of virtuosity. They seem to characterise the Franciscan spirit within Liszt that emerged in later life. There are also a great many transcriptions, often of his own works, but sometimes of other composers such as Bach, Chopin and Wagner, often in several versions.

The organ at Cedar Springs is by the Shantz Company containing 78 stops consisting of 4,645 pipes, 83 pipe ranks and two digital ranks, making it presently one of the largest pipe organs in East Tennessee. The tonal design, which controls the complexity and diversity of sounds it can produce, was expanded. The final phase of installation included the addition of two antiphonal divisions on the face of the balcony, a fanfare division and a V rank cornet on the great division. The crowning addition, the horizontal trompette en chamade, is voiced on 12 inches of wind pressure. The tonal finishing, which adjusts the tonal quality of the pipes to the room, was completed by Stephen Brown and Frederick Heffner. They regulated each pipe for color, power, blend, attack and pitch to provide optimum sound quality.

Join us as we hear:

Jim Garvey: *Fantasy and Fugue on the chorale Ad nos, ad salutarem undam* (1850)

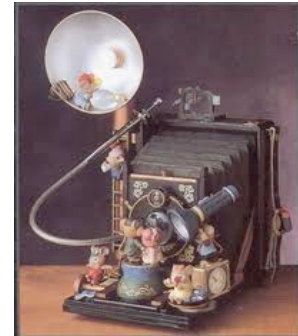
John Brock: *Weinen, Klagen' Variationen* (1863)

Karl Jacob: *Prelude and Fugue on the name of BACH* [first/second version] (1855, 1870)

Please remember to make your reservation by the noon deadline. The deadline dates for each month and the reservation contact is provided elsewhere in this newsletter. Consider making a permanent reservation. Take note of our payment policy. If you make a reservation and do not cancel before the reservation deadline or you do not show for dinner, you must still pay for that dinner.

You oughta be in pictures,
 You're wonderful to see,
 You oughta be in pictures,
 Oh, what a hit you would be!
 Your voice would thrill a nation,
 Your face would be adored,
 You'd make a great sensation
 with wealth and fame your reward.

*From the show "Ziegfeld Follies Of 1934"
 Edward Heyman / Dana Suesse*



Although the AGO may not gain you wealth and fame, your photograph in our directory would mean we would recognize you. Sandi Henry will be at the September meeting armed with a camera to take your picture for the yearbook. If you would like to add your picture to your directory entry, or replace an existing picture now is the time! Our resident directory expert is Tim Bounds. Have a picture already? Please send it to Tim at thetimoth@frontiernet.net.

Kudos to two of our members!!!

On July 24, James Winfree was honored for his 25 years of service to St. James Episcopal Church, Greeneville, TN. In November a concert will be presented by his former students in honor of his 50th year of playing the organ and directing choirs in Greeneville. (Jim was at Reformation Lutheran for 24 years).

On August 21, Mary Eleanor Pickle gave her final grand recital at First Baptist Church, Knoxville. Mary Eleanor has been organist there for over 43 years. She related at her recital that in the history of First Baptist there had only been 4 organists, but countless ministers. We wish Mary Eleanor a well-deserved retirement.

Congratulations Jim and Mary Eleanor for your many years of dedication!



Many times organists fill the role of church musician along with wearing many other musical hats. Because of this, we do not often times get a chance to experience the offerings of our fellow colleagues. Thank you to those who regularly submit events of interest to our membership. I would like to encourage all of you to consider publicizing your program, recital, service, concert, and so forth with *The Tracker*. Many of us personally enjoy 'climbing off the bench' and becoming a part of the listening community and supporting other musicians in the area.

Our Program Year

September 12	Liszt Celebration	Cedar Springs Presbyterian, Knoxville
October 3	Poulenc Concerto	Church of the Ascension, Knoxville
November 7	Historical Instruments	Fountain City Presbyterian, Knoxville
December 5	Knoxville Early Music Project	First Presbyterian, Knoxville
January 9	A Very Special Evening	Tennessee Theatre, Knoxville
February 6	Choral Evensong	Immaculate Conception, Knoxville
March 5	Durufié Messe cum júbilo, Op. 11	Church Street UMC, Knoxville
April 16	Student Recital	First Baptist, Knoxville
May 7	Musica Organi	Westminster Presbyterian, Knoxville

The Program Committee has worked diligently to put into place a diverse program year. Many thanks to our Program Chair, Karl Jacob, and to all our performers, hosts and chairs, for your willingness to serve. Without the kindness of area churches and musicians it would be impossible for us to further the mission of the Organ Guild.

Important Dates

Program Date

September 12
 October 3
 November 7
 December 5
 January 9
 February 6
 March 5
 April 16
 May 7

Dinner Reservation Deadline

September 8
 September 29
 November 3
 December 1
 Undecided
 February 2
 March 1
 April 12
 May 3

EVENTS

Sunday September 4, 2011, 3:00 pm. The silent movie golden era of the 1920s will return to the big screen at the Historic Tennessee Theatre. The Buster Keaton directed film, *The General*, filmed in 1927, will be shown with Wurlitzer organ accompaniment. *The General* is considered one of the best silent movies ever filmed. The stars are Buster Keaton and Marion Mack. The organist will be the talented Ron Carter who accompanied four Clarence Brown directed silent movies shown at the Tennessee Theatre between February and June, 2011. This series is made possible by a grant from the Tennessee Arts commission. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children and seniors. Tickets are on sale at the Clinch Avenue ticket office. They may be ordered by phone by calling the ticket office at 684-1200.

Sunday, September 11, from 2:00 until 5:00 pm, Second Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, Art Show. We will be honoring Josephine Mayo, artist and church member, by displaying her paintings. Church and community artists also participating in the show include Leilla White, Patrick Minton, Harriet Campbell, Beverly Gilmer, David Gilmer, Brice Gilmer, Elizabeth Rochelle, David Klieman, Mary Burnett, Amy Campbell, Bob Leggett, Joy Arnett, Bill Rudd, Dot Galloway, Deborah Cain, Dick Penner, Joyce Ryan, the family of William Russell Briscoe, and Julie Warren Martin Conn. Art will be available both for viewing and for sale. Twenty percent of the proceeds will go into the organ fund to purchase a Great Trumpet stop for the church organ. Entrance to the show is free, and live classical music will be performed in the exhibit areas. Coffee, tea, and sweets can also be enjoyed in the parlor and court yard. Please come to meet the artists and admire their fine paintings, photography, sculpture, pottery, china painting, needlework, and beveled glass articles.

Friday, September 16, 7 pm, Fairfield Glade Community Church, Fairfield Glade, TN. Rodney Barbour will present a recital on the Rodgers Trillium digital organ. The church is located at 521 Snead Drive near Crossville, TN. Tickets are \$10 in advance or at the door. For further information please contact Organist, Mary Hirst at 931-863-3982. To read a bio for Mr. Barbour, follow this link:
<http://www.pipesounds.org/Rodney%20Barbour.pdf>

Sunday, September 18, 4:00 pm., Cox Auditorium at the University of Tennessee Alumni Memorial Building, and **Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 pm,** Thomas Recital Hall at Carson-Newman. Joint Faculty Recitals by John Brock, organ, and Keith McClelland, bassoon. Works by Bach, Liszt, Schumann, Pinkham, Craig Phillips, and Jeffrey Prater. Open to the public without charge.

Sunday, September 25 at 2:00 pm, Dr. Michael Patilla, Assistant Professor of Guitar at Mississippi State University, will present a recital at First Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, in the Chapel. Dr. Patilla is a graduate of the Eastman School of Music and has performed extensively throughout North and South America and Europe. The event is free and open to the public.

Pipe organ keeps a dying art form alive

Sixty years ago, when Lawrence Bray booted the hens out of his aunt's chicken coop to make room for a theater pipe organ, few people thought anything would come of the venture.

The building was little more than a tumble-down shack with a concrete floor and bits of feathers floating everywhere. But Lawrence was determined to give his mighty Wurlitzer a proper stage. He scrubbed the coop from top to bottom, put in a new black-and-white tile floor and raised the roof to accommodate the 16-foot bass pipes of the prized theater organ he'd purchased from the Utah Theater when "talkies" took over.

Today, after numerous renovations, there is little that is recognizable about Lawrence's Organ Loft, opened to the public 60 years ago at 3331 Edison St., just off State Street in South Salt Lake. Lawrence died 24 years ago and his nephew, Larry Bray, now runs the unique theater and reception center — one of the few places in the country where Charlie Chaplin and Laurel & Hardy still rule the silver screen. Several times a year, Larry holds a silent film festival so that old movie fans and children never exposed to silent slapstick can experience the thundering awe of his 2,400-pipe theater organ.

Next Thursday and Friday he'll show the "Kid Brother," starring Harold Lloyd, one of the most popular comic stars of the early 1900s. "This is a dying art form," says Larry, "so it's fun to keep a bit of history going. But you have to have a passion and a love for it. An organ like this requires a lot of upkeep." In celebration of six decades in business, Larry recently joined me for a Free Lunch chat at the Organ Loft, where he'd just finished serving 60 friendship club members stuffed pork chops and green beans. Banquets and wedding receptions make up the majority of his business these days, but Larry still delights in opening his doors to the public for \$5 a seat.

He was 13 years old when his uncle first put him to work, after school, polishing the dance floor and repairing worn-out parts on the organ. Lawrence Bray collected theater organ pipes for years, purchasing spare parts wherever he could find them. "I'll never forget when he bought an organ from the Paramount Theater in New York," recalls Larry. "It was delivered in two huge Mayflower vans. It just looked like a big old pile of junk to me. But my uncle knew better."

Lawrence painstakingly set up hundreds of pipes in four chambers and wired them to the Wurlitzer console on the dining room stage. Over the years, he added drums, tambourines, a marimba, piano, glockenspiel, even a boat horn, to complete his "orchestra." Today, all that's missing on the elaborate purple and gold instrument is Elton John to play it. Instead, Larry has four local accompanists who thrill at the challenge of synchronizing sound effects to the action on the screen. He tried taking lessons years ago to play the Wurlitzer himself but quickly became frustrated. "It takes a special talent — a talent that I don't have," he admits. "There are very few people who know how to properly play a theater organ. It didn't take long for me to figure out that I wasn't one of them."

Larry doesn't mind that he is better suited to serve popcorn and repair pipes. Every Tuesday night, he gets help with the Wurlitzer's upkeep from the local chapter of the American Theater Organ Society — a group of about 25 silent movie fans. Club members replace old wiring and tune up pipes ranging in size from 16 feet to 8 inches — the size of a pencil.

"It's a bit of the past that nobody wants to see die," says Larry, who makes his own replacement parts. "My uncle used to brag that there was enough wiring in this thing to extend seven times around the Earth. I don't know about that. But once around the Earth? I wouldn't be surprised."

By [Cathy Free](#), Deseret News
Thursday, May 4, 2006

Are we a dying art form? Is the Organ “falling by the wayside?” Only we who are so familiar with this instrument, who dedicate our lives and our careers to playing can answer that question. In the meantime, what can we do? Do you know a player, a would-be player, an enthusiast, an admirer of the organ? Why not contact them today. Invite them to join you on September 12. Tell them about our organization. Invite them to become a member. Collectively we CAN make a difference.

Dear KAGO Members,

All of you should have received your membership packet in the mail by now, and we wanted to highlight the important letter that our dean, Charles Parham, included with the registration materials. Your help is needed to fund KAGO's new scholarship for private organ study that will be awarded beginning with the 2012-2013 school year. This scholarship will support both pre-college and undergraduate organ students who study with KAGO members.

The scholarship committee recently voted to invest the money from the Brock Organ Education Fund (BOEF), which was established in honor of Professor John Brock, so that the interest could be used to fund scholarships. In order to make the scholarships meaningful to worthy students, we will also rely on the generous support of our members. Our hope is that we can continue to offer scholarship aid in perpetuity, so your gift is especially important.

Please thoughtfully consider your contribution to support the future of organ playing and church music. No amount is too small; all gifts are meaningful and will be greatly appreciated by the selected students.

The KAGO Scholarship Committee

Tim Bounds, Brenda Goslee, Edie Johnson, Joan McGinnis,
Carolyn Moser, Hal Schmitt, and Peter Van Eenam

Job Opportunities

Highland Presbyterian Church, located in Maryville, TN, is looking for a choir director to lead and grow the music program. Duties include rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and Sunday morning, plus Sunday morning worship; attendance at monthly worship committee meetings; and development of a children/ youth choir and a handbell choir. Piano skills required; organ and handbell skills a plus. Please send resumes to revscarter@comcast.net.

Centenary UMC seeks a part-time pianist and/or organist for worship services, chancel choir and other musicians, and choir rehearsals and performances. Send resume by Sept. 12 to: Centenary UMC, 203 N. Elm Ave., Erwin, TN 37650, or cumcet@yahoo.com.



**AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY
TO BE PRESENTED IN COOPERATION WITH
EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC
EROI Festival 2011: Improvisation and Organ Pedagogy
November 10–13, 2011, Rochester, NY
<http://www.esm.rochester.edu/eroi/>**

NEW YORK CITY—The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the Eastman School of Music are partnering to produce the 16th biennial AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy, November 10–13, 2011, in Rochester, N.Y. The conference, designed in cooperation between the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education and the 10th annual Eastman Rochester Organ Initiative (EROI) Festival, will present the topic of organ improvisation through a variety of compositional techniques and styles. Complete information, including online registration, is available online. Early registration discounts are available through August 15. "The goal of the AGO's pedagogy conferences is to address various topics and issues pertaining to organ instruction in North America," declared David Heller, director of the AGO Committee on Continuing Professional Education. "The City of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music, with its multiplicity of instruments and performing venues, will provide a superb setting in which to address the topic of improvisation from many different angles, providing information and resources that will be useful to all instructors of the organ at all levels of instruction."

The four-day conference will present master classes featuring students at a variety of levels, panel discussions addressing the teaching of improvisation, and sessions that will provide attendees with resource material in the pedagogy of improvisation. The keynote address, *Why Is Improvisation So Difficult?*, will be given by Eastman faculty member William Porter.

A distinguished faculty of internationally renowned organists and teachers working in the discipline of organ improvisation will include Jeffrey Brillhart (Yale University), Tony Caramia (Eastman), Sophie-Veronique Cauchefeur-Choplin (Royal College of Music, London), Hans Davidsson (Eastman), Michael Dodds (University of North Carolina School of the Arts), Gerre Hancock (Butler School of Music, University of Texas), David Higgs (Eastman), Denise Lanning (Denver Chapter, AGO), Rudolf Lutz (Schola Cantorum Basiliensis), William Marvin (Eastman), Bruce Neswick (Indiana University), David Peckham (Horseheads United Methodist Church, Horseheads, N.Y.), McNeil Robinson (Manhattan School of Music), Pamela Ruitter-Feenstra (author of *Bach and the Art of Improvisation*), John R. Shannon (Sweet Briar College), and Daniel Zager (Eastman).

For further information, please contact please contact EROI Festival Coordinator Annie Laver at 585-274-1564 or e-mail anne.laver@rochester.edu.

www.knoxago.org



October Newsletter Deadline: September 15

DUES

If you have not yet submitted your registration form and dues, please do so now. You can access the registration form on our website (<http://www.knoxago.org>) or by contacting Sandi Henry at sandi1957@gmail.com or 865-483-0769.

*******Dinner Reservations*******

Please make your dinner reservations for

September 12, 2011
Cedar Springs Presbyterian
Knoxville, TN

No later than
Noon, September 8

by contacting
Jim Garvey
865-588-0589, extension 216
jgarvey@knoxvilleascension.org