

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

www.agomilwaukee.org • chapter@agomilwaukee.org

Volume 64 – January 2018



Acoustic Environments and Organ Repairs: Information Worth Knowing

Saturday, January 27, 2018

10:30 AM-12:30 PM

Clinicians:

Scott R. Riedel: *President/Acoustician/Architectural-Acoustic Designer/Organ Consultant:* Scott R. Riedel & Associates, Ltd. Mr. Riedel is a graduate of the University Of Wisconsin School Of Architecture and the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. He is Organist-Choirmaster at Christ Church, Episcopal, Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin, and is a guest lecturer at Columbia College in Chicago, Illinois. He has served on many church music committees and boards, including the American Guild of Organists, The Royal School of Church Music, and The Association of Lutheran Musicians. He is a member of the British Institute of Organ Studies, the Acoustical Society of America, and the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Riedel's publications include a column in the GIA Quarterly Magazine as Architectural and Acoustics reviewer, the booklet "Acoustics in the Worship Space" Published by Concordia Publishing House, as a series of articles in "The Diapason" magazine. He has also edited a special issue of *CrossAccent*, a journal published by the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, which focused on church architecture, acoustics, and music. Mr. Riedel has presented lectures on worship space acoustics, organ design and purchase to the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, National Association of Pastoral Musicians, American Guild of Organists (various chapters and regions), The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, American Institute of Architects, The Acoustical Society of America-Wisconsin Chapter, and the Lectures in Church Music at Concordia University.

Craig R. Schaefer: *Associate Acoustician, Lead Acoustical Engineer /Head of Acoustical Testing/Modeling Services:* Scott R. Riedel & Associates, Ltd. Craig's specialties include acoustical testing & analysis, acoustical modeling, acoustical design, noise control engineering, technical writing, and AutoCAD. Craig has degrees in Architectural Science and Design from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as well as Masters Degrees in Architectural Sciences and Acoustic Science from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. He holds memberships in the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and the Acoustical Society of America (ASA). Craig is published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, and has made presentations at the Society's national conventions. His musical experience includes membership in both church and professional choirs, as well as in the Milwaukee Symphony Chorus. Craig's scientific experience includes the following technical and theoretical systems; Geometric Acoustics, Psychoacoustics, Stagecraft and Theater Design, Coupled Space Modeling, 3D Modeling and CAD software

John Meyer: John Meyer is a lifelong pipe organ enthusiast. Having first become interested in his church's pipe organ and classical literature of the pipe organ at about the age of 10, he has been involved in some way throughout his life with pipe organ repair, service, playing for enjoyment, and three times chaired organ committees in three churches he has attended in his lifetime. Professionally, his career has been with the home office of Johnson Controls for 30 years. Duties included teaching of and technical support Johnson's traditional business, namely, heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems control applications, control systems design, system trouble shooting and operation.

Three Holy Women—St. Hedwig Site
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January Jubilee

Friday, January 26, 2018 at 7:00 pm
Saturday, January 27, 2018
from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
Peace Lutheran Church
737 Barracksview Road
Saint Louis, Missouri 63125

The Saint Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists will host a church music conference for part and full time church musicians. Topics covered will include: The Organ (Pipe and Digital) ~ Choral Music (Adult and Youth) ~ Handbells ~ Social Media ~ Technology ~ Clergy/Musicians Relations

Internationally known organist Mark Pacoe from New York will present a recital on Friday evening. Over 20 breakout sessions will be presented by Mr. Pacoe and local experts on Saturday !!

Come, relax and enjoy a day of learning!

Visit: www.agostlouis.org/jubilee2018 or our Facebook www.facebook.com/JanuaryJubilee



BACH, BLUES & BBQ:

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KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

JULY 2, 2018 – JULY 6, 2018

PipeNotes is Published Monthly submit information to the editor via email at, pneditor@agomilwaukee.org.
The Deadline is the 20th of the preceding month

Though it's January and we are already into our Lent and Easter endeavors I came upon this poem by John Bishop. It makes me smile and I can enjoy it now that all of its intricacies of Christmas have been accomplished. May it bring laughter to you too.

An AGO Christmas Meditation — John Bishop

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the nave
Parents were hissing, "Sit still and behave.
We won't drag you back here again until Easter,
So quiet your mouth and sit down on your keester."

A boy in a shepherd suit fastens his sandals,
The ushers are frantically handing out candles.
One says to the other, "I think this is crazy.
Each Christmas we do this – our thinking is hazy.
This beautiful building's a hundred years old.
We work all year long doing just as we're told
To take care of the place. We treat it like gold.

"But one night a year we go out of our minds,
The people walk in here – they're fools of all kinds.
We give them a smile, our best Christmas cheer,
Then we give them a torch – will it happen this year?
I've been saying in meetings that this has to stop,
We're asking for trouble, it's over the top.
At least we should quit with the kids in the choir.
Just one of them trips and we'll have a big fire."

A family arrives in a swirl of good cheer,
(it seems they drink eggnog just once every year!)
The father resplendent in holiday dress,
(Plaid pants, red carnation, an old green felt vest)
Comes through the front door and trips on the sill.
His wife shoots a dagger – that look that could kill.
He spots an old friend across the big room,
Hasn't seen him since April (when Christ left the tomb).
He bellows a greeting in well-oiled voice.
The friend only grunts 'cause he's here not by choice.

The Pastor in robes is outwardly merry.
He's proud of himself, had just one glass of sherry.
The day's been a long one – first show was at seven.
He's running on fumes now at ten 'till eleven.
His mind is well filled with plans for the service,
But a thought passes through that makes him feel nervous.
He remembers a box back at home in the attic,
He bought it himself 'cause his son's a fanatic
For moving at speed. So some time before six
His hands will be bleeding. He'll run out of tricks.
A shiny new bike should be built before morning,
But he wonders just what will go wrong without warning.
This job that he loves takes control of his life,
He yearns for more quality time with his wife.
Each year at Christmas this problem gets worse.
His family life shifts for two weeks to reverse.

The flower committee did it big time this year.
They drafted their husbands who worked without fear
On ladders and stools with nails and hammerous,
The wives were so proud that it made them feel amorous.
Wreaths and fresh garlands stretched here, there, and far,
The whole thing topped off by a fake natal star.
The organ façade was covered with greens,
And ribbons and sparkles of various sheens.
It was tricky to fasten that stuff to the pipes,
"Just a few little holes couldn't hurt, holy cripes."

The R.E. director lassoes the great crowd
Of donkeys and angels and kings with heads bowed.
They huddle together and practice the script
And try not to laugh when a shepherd gets tripped.
Joseph pipes up that his costume is ripped.

The organist sits by himself on the stair,
He cradles his face in his hands in despair.
He wonders what force dragged him in to this mess.
But he knows deep inside that he has to confess
That part of the plan for this night was his work.
The love of the pageant – a personal quirk.

It started last fall, in early September,
He had an idea, a smoldering ember.
The staff went away for its planning retreat,
They sat by the waves, hot sand under their feet.
Each one of them brainstormed when asked by the pastor,
The silly ideas came faster and faster.
They developed a plan that they thought they could master.
Not one of them saw it could cause a disaster.

Eleven o'clock, the hour appointed,
But we can't start yet – the crowd's still disjointed.
The ushers encourage the folks to the pews,
"The wise men are waiting and so are the ewes.
If we can't get started we'll never get finished,
The later it gets, the more joy gets diminished."

A ten past the hour the signal light blinks.
The prelude is ended, the organist thinks
About how to arrive in the key of G major.
From where he is now, this is all about danger.



But suddenly, somehow it happened like magic.
They came, all those faithful, and nothing was tragic.
An improvised intro that sounded just glorious,
Including a hint of a descant notorious.
The choir appeared in the aisle like a vision
With nary a hint of rehearsal derision.
The chorus of creatures in costumes a-flowing
Were following suit, their faces were glowing.
The last verse with harmonies rich and appealing
Concluded – the church was in silence revealing
A beautiful scene – a well honed tableau,
Outside, in the dark, it started to snow.

A moment of silence, and then invocation,
A reading, an anthem, a psalm incantation.
A carol, and then the Luke-based Christmas sermon,
Not even the littlest donkey was squirming.
The pageant was next – parents' eyes starting tearing.
The kids DID speak up, so the people were hearing
The young tuneful voices with words full of meaning
While camels and oxen and sheep sat there preening.
One kid whispered, "Mommy, it's not even boring."
There was no other sound save the vested man's snoring.

At the end of the story the lights were turned down.
And a pretty young angel in flowing white gown
Lit a candle. And under the gaze of that usher,
All candles were lit, and the hush became husher.
A shimmering sound from enclosed Unda Maris,
A note from the chimes, and the prayerful parish
Began to sing quietly, then gradually swelling
Silent Night, Holy Night, the old story retelling.

We work all year long, down in the trenches,
Sometimes it seems the gears fill up with wrenches.
Holiday times can bring out great frustration
But you shouldn't forget that all through the nation
Your colleagues are sharing the work of the season.
The planning. The practice. Remember the reason.
Your talents have been freely given as gifts;
In order to hone them, you work double shifts.
Then freely and humbly you offer them back
To the folks in your church. So stay on the track.
Keep up your strength, keep your eye on the prize,
And give to the parish a Christmas surprise.

Come Rutter, come Willcocks, come Benjamin Britten
Composers of anthems with which we are smitten.
Come T. Tertius Noble, come William Matthias,
Come writers of music that's stirring and pious.
There's no better way to receive Virgin Mary
Than with music by Bach and C. Hubert H. Parry.

The service is ended, the candles are snuffed,
The fear of a fire once more is rebuffed.
The blower is off now, the costumes are shed,
The angels and donkeys and cows are in bed.
The choir room table is covered with piles
Of music that brought all those holiday smiles.

The pastor's son's bike gleams bright in the hall,
And finally the parking lot's closed at the mall.
The man with the funny green vest is in bed
While visions of sugarplums dance in his head!
The AGO member now turns off the light,
"Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night."

Permission to reprint granted 12/26/18

BLESSINGS ON YOUR NEW YEAR !!

May 2018 bring wealth

of lasting value . . .

Sheri

"Even there your hand will
guide me, your right hand
will hold me fast."

Psalm 139:10



January 2018

4 (Thurs) 7:00 10th Night Choral Vespers
Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church
1046 N. 9th St
Milwaukee, WI

7 (Sun) 4:00 Proceyon Duo
St. Casimir Church
2600 N. Bremen St
Milwaukee, WI

9 (Tues) 7:30 Larry Wheelock, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

14 (Sun) 2:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ
Salem Lutheran Church
2400 N. Cramer
Milwaukee, WI

17 (Wed) 12:15 Daniel Beliavsky, Piano
Yuri Beliavsky, Violin
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

21 (Sun) 4:00 Tom Koester, Organ
St. Casimir Church
2600 N. Bremen St
Milwaukee, WI

24 (Wed) 12:15 John Seboldt, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

27 (Sat) 10:30 Chapter Event
Acoustic Environments and
Organ Repairs
Scott Riedel, Craig Schaefer
And John Meyer
St. Hedwig's Church
1702 N. Humboldt
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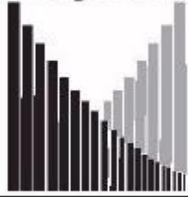
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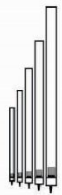
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Upcoming AGO programs

Saturday, January 27, 2018

10:30 am-12:30 pm

Acoustic Environments and Organ Repairs:

Information Worth Knowing

Clinicians: Scott Riedel and David Beyer
Three Holy Women-St. Hedwig Site
1702 North Humboldt Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Saturday, March 10, 2018

Watertown Area Organ Crawl

Coordinator: David Bohn

Sunday, April 15, 2018

1:30-5:00 PM

3:00 PM – Recital with Jon Gillock

110th Anniversary of Messiaen's Birth Event

Church of the Gesu
1145 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Sunday, May 6, 2018

2 PM – **Annual Meeting**

3 PM – **Member's Recital**

Saint Joseph Hall/Saint Joseph Convent
Chapel

1501 South Layton Boulevard
Milwaukee, WI 53215

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See you in

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OUR 100TH YEAR



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