

PipeNotes

American Guild of Organists – Milwaukee Chapter

P.O. Box 11731

Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211

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Volume 65 – June 2019



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1957 Midwestern Regional Convention

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

JUNE 16-19
2019



GREAT MUSIC ON A GREAT LAKE



"One Spirit, Many Voices"
November 2018



Jon Gillock—Messiaen
April 2018

1919 - 2019

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Upcoming 2018 – 2019 Programs For The AGO Milwaukee Chapter

June 16 – 19, 2019

North Central Regional Convention
Milwaukee, WI

See the website for more information!

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June 2019

12 (Wed) 12:15 Derrick Hahn, Piano
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

13 (Thurs) 7:00 David Porth, Organ
Chapel of Christ Triumphant
Concordia University-Wisconsin
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr
Mequon, WI

14 (Fri) 12:00 David Bohn, Organ
Music on the Hill
St. John the XXIII Parish
St. Mary's Site
551 Johnson St
Port Washington, WI

June 16 – 19 North Central Regional Convention Milwaukee, WI

**(See back page for Programs
And Recitals open to the public)**

16 (Sun) 2:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ
Milwaukee Catholic Home
2462 N. Prospect Ave
Milwaukee, WI

**16 (Sun) 3:00 Pre-Convention Event
Psalms for Organ and Instruments
By Sr. Theophane Hytrek SSSF
Sheri Masiakowski, Organ
Charles Q. Sullivan, Director
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI**

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

21 (Fri) Drew Rutz, Organ
Music on the Hill
St. John the XXIII Parish
St. Mary's site
551 Johnson St
Port Washington, WI

23 (Sun) 2:00 Karen Beaumont, Organ
St. Hedwig's Church
1702 N. Humboldt
Milwaukee, WI

26 (Wed) 12:15 Maggie Rodewald, Piano
Tim Rebers, Baritone
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

July 2019

2 (Tues) 7:30 Olivier Latry, Organ
Central Lutheran Church
259 W. Wabasha St
Winona, MN

3 (Wed) 7:30 Olivier Latry, Organ
Central Lutheran Church
259 W. Wabasha St
Winona, MN

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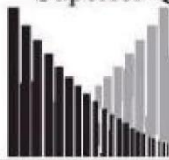
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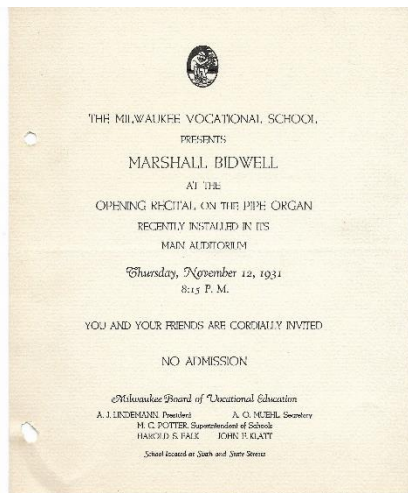
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From the Archives

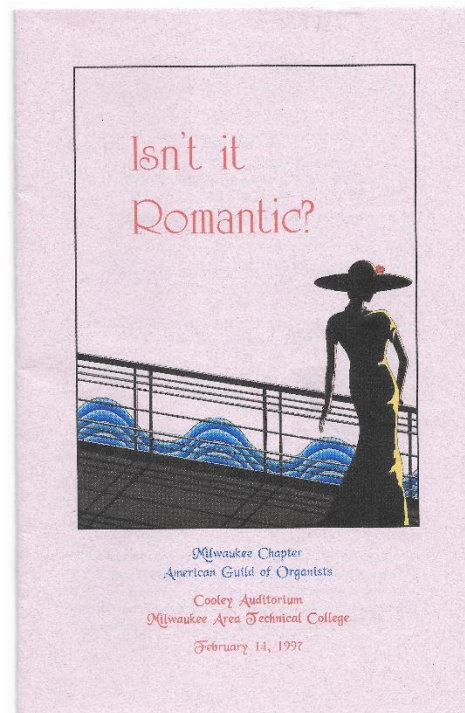
Liz Walloch, Archivist/Historian



This month's article reaches into the files to share a pipe organ installation from 1931. It is an E.M. Skinner Organ recently installed in the Main Auditorium of the Milwaukee Vocational School. On the evening of November 12, 1931 at 8:15 pm Marshall Bidwell played the opening recital. Unfortunately, the organ program he played is "history." From the numerous program booklets I found in the archives, none of them listed the program he played that evening. However, I did discover some interesting facts about this specific instrument worth sharing. This pipe organ was built by the Ernest M. Skinner Organ Company, the premier organ builder in the United States during the first thirty years of the Twentieth Century. From churches, concert halls and universities, Skinner pipe organs were designed and built along orchestral lines. The majority of ranks were voiced to directly imitate the timbres of the orchestra. Skinner was also the "magic" name in organ building because of the tonal quality of his stops far exceeding those of his contemporaries. As tastes in pipe organ building moved away from the orchestral sound, many

instruments were altered in sound or replaced. A pure Skinner, unchanged from the original design and voicing, is a rarity today. Well, this instrument from 1931 is a pure Skinner and a treasure in Milwaukee. With the instrument purchase price of \$35,000, it has a unique feature called the "roll player" unit which was priced at \$17,000. Back in 1931, this was mega money for any purchase let alone a pipe organ for a school. The individuals involved in purchasing this instrument were visionaries and felt justified to purchase both the organ and "roll player" unit. At the time this organ was constructed, the only common method of making organs to play automatically was by the means of paper rolls. These were similar to the player piano rolls. Each organ builder had a unique system, most of which only worked on the organs of that company. The major market for rolls was in the residence organ field, with most of the titles for the entertainment of the well-to-do who could afford such luxury. Some of the rolls are replicas of actual playing by some of the "distinguished" New England Skinner artists and others are "contrived" on the cutting machine. These rolls provided insight into performance practices of the time. The school's library collection has over 100 rolls playable on this instrument bringing the virtuosity of the finest concert organists of the Twenties into the auditorium. This instrument received some press in 1931. It was featured in a full-page advertisement in the organ magazine *The Diapason*. Central Milwaukee Library has *The Diapason* editions from February and December 1931 in the collection.

Whether the instrument is played manually or automatically, it will impress listeners with the fullness of the sound achieved throughout the auditorium. The three main divisions are placed above the proscenium arch, an arch framing the opening between the stage and the auditorium. A five-rank Echo division speaks from the grille in the rear of the second balcony. There is also a three-rank Stage division, to support performers on stage. This instrument may be considered historically as a museum piece and worthy of respected space in the Smithsonian Museum. This fully operational instrument in its original installation is a treasure for the continued musical life of Milwaukee. It is on the register of the Organ Historical Society and our Milwaukee Chapter hosted a February 14, 1997 event "Isn't it Romantic?" The evening included a welcome by Tom Koester, Sub Dean and Program Chairman; William Hansen the Curator offered remarks on the instrument as well as a demonstration of the "roll player." The featured artist for this program was Chapter member, Larry S. Roou, CAGO. The evening concluded with socializing, with food provided by the MATC Food Catering Department and tours of the main organ chambers.



Program

Fanfare

William Mathias

Commissioned for the inaugural concert of the Christie Organ (Hill, Norman & Beard's theatre organ division) at the Memorial Hall, Barry, England on February 28, 1987.

Lyric Reverie

Peter I. Tchaikovsky
transcribed by Donald Lee Moore

Sketch IV

from *Four Sketches*,
Op. 58 for Pedal Piano

Robert Schumann

Benedictus

Op. 59, No. 9

Max Reger

Max Reger has expressed in music the words found in the Gospel "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hossanna in the highest."

In the Garden

setting by Dan Miller

Theatrical Settings

Isn't It Romantic
Secret Love

arranged by Larry Roo

Crown Imperial

William Walton

This march was composed in 1937 for the coronation of King George VI. It is transcribed for organ by Herbert Murrill.

I know that members of the chapter who attended this February 14, 1997 event experienced a real musical treat and took a step back in time. Hopefully, some got a chance to tour the main organ chambers. From the Organ Historical Society database, the instrument is currently listed as still "unaltered." From our member and colleague, David Bohn, the "roll player" cabinet has been restored and there is an effort to raise funds to restore the rest of it.

It has been 22 years since the chapter hosted an event at the vocational school, now called Milwaukee Area Technical College. I missed out not attending the 1997 event, but look forward to suggesting to the Programming Committee an event in the future.

P.S. For the months of July and August, I will be taking a "pause" with articles, will resume again in September. Enjoy summer!

NORTH CENTRAL REGION

JUNE 16-19

2019



GREAT MUSIC ON A GREAT LAKE

North Central Regional Convention Recitals Open to the Public

**These Programs are open to the public – *free of charge*, but we ask a free-will
Donation from those not registered at the convention
(Suggested donation for Recitals and Concerts \$20)**

Sunday, June 16, 2019

7:30 PM Opening Program
Jan Kraybill, Organ
St. Joseph Center Chapel
1501 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI

Monday, June 17, 2019

8:30 AM Morning Prayer
The Cathedral Church of All Saints
818 E. Juneau Ave
Milwaukee, WI

1:00 PM Regional Competition for Young Organists Winner's Recital
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
914 E. Knapp St
Milwaukee, WI

7:30 PM Michael T.C. Hey, Organ
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist
812 N. Jackson St
Milwaukee, WI

Tuesday, June 18, 2019

3:00 PM Greg Zelek, Organ
Church of Saint Jude the Apostle
734 Glenview Ave
Wauwatosa, WI

8:30 PM Chant Claire Chamber Choir
Basilica of St. Josephat
2333 S. Sixth St
Milwaukee, WI

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

10:30 AM Hymn Festival with John Behnke
The Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble and Festival Choir
Chapel of Christ Triumphant
Concordia University – Wisconsin
12800 N. Lake Shore Dr
Mequon, WI

1:15 PM Jillian Gardner, Organ
Church of SS Peter and Paul
2490 N. Cramer St
Milwaukee, WI

3 PM Elisa Bickers, Organ
Mount Carmel Lutheran Church
8424 W. Center St
Milwaukee, WI

7:30 PM Lynne Davis, Organ
Church of the Gesu
1145 W. Wisconsin Ave
Milwaukee, WI

