

Mixtures

The Organ of the Binghamton Chapter, AGO



JANUARY 2012

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Two years have passed since Lee Roseboom wrote these words in the Dean's Column -- "our AGO connections and activities have certainly been enjoyable times of fellowship, as well as learning and sharing" . . . "we look forward to those times continuing in 2010." Two years later we can truthfully say that our AGO experiences have continued to enrich us and were very much in evidence at the post-holiday get-together at the Spot last Friday. Roberta Rowland-Raybold proposed a toast to "Merry Music Making", after which we welcomed newest member, Patti O'Connell; lapsed member, Ivor Davies; and spouses, Jeff Kellam and John Rugg. Nineteen of us shared laughter, experiences, and information about upcoming events.

We learned that the blower on the Beman organ at St. Mary's crashed just before Christmas. (Richard Sheasley's article about the experience is on page 3.) Richard subsequently researched the organ builder, Frank Beman, and shared his findings with us. Besides having built as many as 800 organs, Beman was also the organist at a local church, missing only 4 services during the 20 years. If you know which church it was, you are smarter than we were. If you don't know, the answer can be found somewhere in *Mixtures*.

We also learned that our chapter was the lucky recipient of a data projector from Senior Net. Following the decision to disband, SN was required to distribute its equipment to non-profit organizations, and your dean's request for the projector was granted. Thanks to Bruce Wendling who was the liaison for this transaction.

We learned that the February 11th "Introduction to Hauptwerk" event has been rescheduled for March 24 because of a conflict in Jean's schedule.

The next learning event on the AGO calendar will take place on Sat., Jan. 14, 10:30 am, at Ogden-Hillcrest Methodist, 1061 Chenango St. Roberta has prepared a handout that will suggest music for the funeral service which you may not have thought of. She and her students will play some excerpts. Lee Roseboom will present some thoughts about the spiritual connections between the celebration of a life and the appropriate music. Even if you have played for many funerals in the past, this will be an opportunity to learn something and stretch your thinking.

Polly

DEAN

Polly Wendling
754-0378

NEWSLETTER

Polly Wendling
pro tem 754-0378

PLACEMENT

Jean Henssler
748-7285

WEBSITE

Richard Hedgebeth
www.binghamtonago.org



CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Saturday, **Jan. 7 – 9:30 am** AGO Board Meeting; 600 Lowell Drive, Endwell

Saturday, **Jan. 14, 2012 – 10:30 am** “Music for the Funeral Service” at Ogden-Hillcrest United Methodist, 1061 Chenango St., Binghamton. A sampling of music appropriate for both the liturgical rite of burial and a celebratory service of commemoration.

Sunday, **February 19 - 4 pm** Organ Recital by Gerald Wolfe at Grace Episcopal, Elmira

Friday, **March 2 – 7 pm** Sing-along at Hilltop Retirement Home, Deyo Hill Rd., Johnson City

Sunday, **March 11 - 4 pm** *Beginnings* (about all things “new”) by the Madrigal Choir at Trinity Memorial Church, Binghamton. Featured Guests: the Parlor City Boys’ Chorus directed by Ghislaine Stewart

Sunday, **March 11 - 4 pm** Organ recital by Jonathan Biggers at United Presbyterian Church, Chenango St, Binghamton. *Flights of Fantasies* will include works by Mozart, Liszt and Bach

Saturday, **March 24 – 10:30 am** “ Introduction to Hauptwerk” at 413 Karin Drive, Vestal

Saturday, **April 14 - 10 am-noon** Carla Edwards Workshop at BU, Fine Arts Rm 21

Sunday, **April 15 - 4 pm** - Carla Edwards organ recital at United Presbyterian, Binghamton

Saturday, **May 5 - 10 am** - ? Richard Van Auken, *Revitalizing Your Hymn Playing*

*Best wishes for a
Happy and Prosperous New Year*

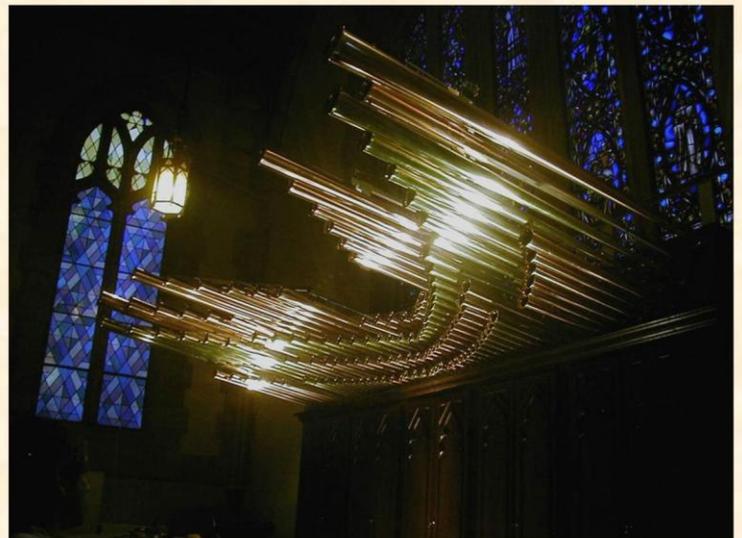


Stuart Organ Company
Complete pipe organ services
Stuartorgan.com



Westminster Organ Works
Premium Hauptwerk solutions
Westminsterorganworks.com

44 Saint John Avenue
Binghamton, New York 13905
607 237-0125 (voice and fax)



Horizontal Trumpets
St. James Episcopal Church, Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles

Richard S. Hedgebeth voiced and installed the horizontal trumpets at St. James Wilshire Boulevard while a contract voicer for Austin Organs. These pipes have been seen (if not heard) in many film and television productions.

A Christmas Event

It was two days before Christmas Eve when I turned on the Beman/Carey Organ - St. Mary's Binghamton - at my usual practice time. Halfway through my warm-up piece (the Brahms chorale based on Lo How A Rose is Blooming), I heard a rumble. I thought it was a passing truck on Church St. , a sound I have often heard. But this sound kept getting louder. I thought I felt the organ bench shake as it has twice recently during documented earthquakes. Instantly, I turned off the organ. The rumble stopped! "Better check on the blower two floors down in the basement." I thought. As I approached the room containing the blower, I could smell a hot odor. Unlocking the door, I saw:



The door with its air filters for the cabinet housing the Spencer Blower was on the floor.



The main air supply was no longer perpendicular to the cabinet which was split.



The cabinet had shifted a foot away from the wall on one end.

Paul Carey, head of the maintenance group, (the tuners had just been there two days prior to service the organ for Christmas) called in our own Richard Hedgebeth to assess the situation. Richard made a quick visual inspection and said the impellers on the blower had broken. The organ could not be fixed before Christmas. It was announced at the Midnight Mass on Christmas that the organ's blower had broken 2 days prior, it would cost perhaps \$15,000 to fix, and that instead of the planned organ and brass quintet accompaniments to choir and congregational singing, there would be piano, patched through the church's sound system and brass quintet. Music filled the church that night! The communion mediation was a sung Silent Night accompanied by piano only.

Later that day, the church organist, Irene Martin, who had switched to the piano, said, "I missed using my feet. I had forgotten how much I depend on them."

Richard Sheasley

Thank You to Richard Sheasley for his article and photos on the organ disaster at St. Mary's. Richard has been given the honorary title "organ slayer" because he was on the organ bench at Christ Episcopal in Cooperstown when that blower crashed also.

Frank Beman was organist at Christ Church, Binghamton for 20 years.

Music for the Funeral Service

Binghamton AGO Chapter Event

Presenters: Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Lee Roseboom

Saturday, Jan. 14, 10:30 am

Ogden-Hillcrest Methodist Church



MARCH CHAPTER EVENTS

Joan Kellam will lead a sing-along at Hilltop Retirement Home on Friday, **March 2 at 7 pm.** AGO members are encouraged to attend and add their voices to those of the residents. As in the past, we will meet afterwards at Friendly's for ice cream and conviviality.

Jean Henssler and Richard Hedgebeth will present "An Introduction to Hauptwerk," a digital organ concept, on **Saturday, March 24 at 10:30 a.m.** at the home of Jean Henssler, 413 Karin Drive, Vestal.



to **Jill Gardner** for achieving her CAGO certification.