

MIXTURES

THE ORGAN OF THE BINGHAMTON CHAPTER, AGO

SEPTEMBER 2008



DEAN'S LETTER . . .

Last week BCC and BU started their fall semesters. Today is the first day of public school, and this week or next will be the start of the choir season. Summer is unofficially over, and we are beginning to settle into our regular schedules.

I wrote in June about Summer's being a time to re-create. I hope that for everyone, in some small or large way, this came to pass and we are now re-energized.

August 24 was a lovely day for a drive to Cooperstown, and Donna Frye and I did just that; we were joined there by Caroline and Darrell Stone. The occasion? Roberta's wonderful performance of works for organ and chamber orchestra with members of the Catskill Symphony, conducted by Charles Schneider. Roberta performed an organ concerto by Handel and two of the Mozart Sonatas for organ and strings. This took place at Christ Episcopal Church, where she is the new organist/choirmaster. We were proud to be there.

As we all know, time flies, and it is just a few days until Sept. 7, when Jonathan Biggers embarks on the first of fifteen concerts over the next three years, covering the complete Bach Werke. This first concert is at First Presbyterian, Binghamton at 4 p.m.

Two very important deadlines are approaching and must be addressed without delay.

Friday, Sept. 19, is the kickoff event to be held at 6:30 p.m. (note change in time). The location is St. Catherine's in Hillcrest (next door to Ogden-Hillcrest UMC). Roberta and Carolyn Blake are going to prepare an Italian Feast that they won in a raffle! Come one, come all, and *mange bene!* The program will be about the rebuilding of the famed Marien Kirke and organ in Dresden, that were totally destroyed in the fire bombing in WW II.

It is important, nay imperative, that your reservations are given to Carolyn no later than Sept. 16. See you on Sept. 19 at the AGO kickoff "Italian Feast."

October 19, the day of the worldwide organ extravaganza, is fast approaching. I must know by Sept. 12 of all who are taking part, what is to be performed, and approximate length of musical offering. The program needs to be assembled, and practice times at Christ Church must be arranged.

Soli De Gloria

Laura

FREE! Moeller pipe organ, 1952 artistic model -- free to a good home. Well-maintained while in use; put in climate-controlled storage 4 years ago.

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ON THE CALENDAR

Sunday, **Sept. 7** - 4 pm - All-Bach organ concert by Jonathan Biggers at First Presbyterian, Binghamton. First in a series of 15 concerts over a period of 3 years covering the entire organ works of J.S. Bach. \$10 (seniors, \$5).

Friday, **Sept. 19** - 6:30 pm AGO Chapter kickoff at St. Catherine's, Hillcrest. Spaghetti supper & DVD documentary showing the rebuilding of the Dresden Marien Kirche and organ, destroyed in WW II

Saturday, **Sept. 20** - 3-5 pm *Organ Plus Instruments* Workshop at First Presbyterian. See details on p 3.

Saturday, **Sept. 20** - 7:30 pm BTOS theater organ concert at the Forum by Ken Double

Saturday, **Sept. 27** - 3 pm Organ concert by Heitor Caballero at Grace Lutheran Church, 701 S. Main St., Vestal (see insert for details)

Saturday, **Oct. 4** - 10 am to Noon Workshop on Creative Service Playing and Simple Improvisation at First Presbyterian Church, Binghamton; Dr. Lynn Trapp, clinician (more on p 3)

Sunday, **Oct. 5** - 4 pm Organ concert by Dr. Lynn Trapp at First Presbyterian, Binghamton; co-sponsored by AGO & BU

Sunday, **Oct. 19** - 4 pm Celebrating the *International Year of the Organ!* Members Recital at Christ Episcopal Church, Binghamton

Sunday, **Oct. 26** - 4 pm - Concert by the Binghamton Madrigal Choir, *Celebrate*

the World, at First Presbyterian, Binghamton

Friday, **Oct. 31** -- organ concert by David Briggs, formerly of Gloucester Cathedral, at St. Stephen's Church, Wilkes Barre.

Saturday, **Nov. 8** and Sunday, **Nov. 9** - 4 pm Dedication of Wolff organ with all-Bach concert by Jonathan Biggers, Fine Arts 21, Binghamton University

Sunday, **Nov. 23** - 4 pm BCC Chorus performs Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* at St. Anthony's, Endicott; Laura Kennedy, accompanist.



The International Year of the Organ was ushered in on June 25, 2008 with a New-Year's-Eve-style celebration at the Minneapolis Convention. Highlighting the IYO will be an "Organ Spectacular," a day-long celebration scheduled for Oct. 19, 2008. On that day, more than 250 concerts will be held around the world to showcase the organ, its colorful history, and its ability to enchant young and old alike.

Binghamton Chapter is observing the day with a members recital at Christ Episcopal Church, Binghamton. Call Laura Kennedy (72-3039) if you would like to participate in the world's largest organ recital!

NOTES FROM DR. JONATHAN BIGGERS . . . ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

♪ SEPT. 21 DEDICATION CONCERT CANCELED . . .

The Bach concert scheduled for Sept. 21 at Binghamton University has been canceled because both the room completion and organ delivery of the new Wolff organ have been delayed. The dedication festivities will occur instead on Nov. 8-9 in Fine Arts 21 (the room next to the Choral Rehearsal Room, for those of you that have been to that facility), and the concert scheduled for Sept. 21 in the Bach series will occur instead sometime next Spring.

♪ “ORGAN PLUS” WORKSHOP . . .

My good friend, Alison Leudecke, and her oboist friend, Susan Barrett, are coming for a weekend visit on Sept. 20-21 between recitals in Vermont and Princeton, and to that end, I’ve decided to ask them to present a workshop entitled “Plays Well with Others! -- Music for Organ and Other Instruments.” The Link performance fund at the University is paying for the event, and it will be presented from 3-5 pm on Saturday, **September 20**, at First Presbyterian Church.

♪ DR. LYNN TRAPP ORGAN CONCERT & WORKSHOP . . .

Our guest organ program will be presented on Sunday, Oct. 5, 4 pm, at First Presbyterian. Dr. Lynn Trapp, Director of Music/Organist at St. Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis, is a wonderful player . . . extremely gifted as an organist, and one of the brightest lights in the Catholic church music world. He has played the organ for a special papal mass a few years back and has presented concerts all over the world. In addition, Dr. Trapp will be presenting a workshop on Saturday morning, Oct. 4, on *Creative Service Playing and Simple Improvisation*, at which he is certainly a master. He is dynamic, funny, and incredibly gifted. This is an event you don’t want to miss.

ACTS 29

AND IT CAME TO PASS, when Paul was at Corinth, he and certain disciples came upon a mob that was stoning an organist. 2 And Paul said unto them, "What then hath he done unto thee that his head should be bruised?" 3 And the people cried with one voice, "He hath played too loud. 4 Yea, in the singing of psalms, he maketh our heads to ring as if they were beaten with hammers. 5 Behold, he sitteth up high in the loft, and mighty are the pipes and mighty is the noise thereof, and though there be few of us below, he nonetheless playeth with all the stops--the Assyrian trumpet stop and the stop of the ram's horn and the stop that soundeth like the sawing of stone--and we cannot hear the words that cometh out of our own mouths. 8 He always tosseth in variations that confuse us mightily and he playeth loud and discordant and always in a militant tempo so that we have not time to breathe as we sing. 7 Lo, he is a plague upon the faith and should be chastised." 8 Paul, hearing this, had himself picked up a small stone, and was about to cast it, but he set it down and bade the organist come forward. 9 He was a narrow man, pale of complexion, dry, flaking, thin of hair. 10 And Paul said unto him, "Why hath thou so abused thy brethren?" 11 And the organist replied, "I could not hear them singing from where I sat, and therefore played the louder so as to encourage them." 12 And Paul turned round to the mob and said loudly, "Let him who has never played an organ

cast the first stone." 13 And they cast stones for a while until their arms were tired and Paul bade the organist repent and he did. 14 And Paul said unto him, "Thou shalt take up the flute and play it for thirty days, to cleanse thy spirit," and afterward they returned to Corinth and sang psalms unaccompanied and then had coffee and were refreshed in the faith.

Submitted by Carolyn Blake

OFFICERS FOR 2008-2009

The following officers were installed at the Annual Meeting on June 15, 2008:

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| Dean | Laura Nancy Kennedy |
| Secretary | Johanna Masters |
| Treasurer | Bob Peterson |
| Class of 2009: | Carolyn Corse Claudia Kachmarik Judy Peterson |
| Class of 2010: | Gloria Larson Lee Roseboom Ellie Rugg |
| Class of 2011: | Janet Hammond Jean Henssler Roberta Rowland-Raybold |

JOB OPENING

Organist needed for United Methodist Church. Call for information: 724-4836.