

EVANSVILLE A.G.O. SHARING THE JOY OF ORGAN PLAYING

Building on the success of programs such as Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, our chapter would like to expand our efforts to share the joy of organ playing with people in our communities by encouraging all chapter members to be creative and think about types of events they might try in their own church, school or community.

SUGGESTED EVENTS

- ◆ **Pedal, Pipes and Pizza:** Two-and-a-half or three-hour event consisting of:
 - 1) An introduction to very basic history, principals of organ design and the function of organ pipes;
 - 2) Demonstration of the stops and mechanisms of the organ(s);
 - 3) Playing of some organ literature by a local organist(s);
 - 4) Time for students to play the organ(s);
 - 5) Going inside the organ or organ chambers;
 - 6) Watching the video “Close Encounters”;
 - 7) A simple meal or snack of pizza, fruit, juice or soft-drinks, cookies, etc.In past Evansville PP&Ps, we often have included a small portativ pipe organ and/or portable reed organ in addition to the primary pipe organ in a local church, for a wider variety of organ-playing experiences.
- ◆ **Keyboard Kaleidoscope:** An event similar to Pedal, Pipes and Pizza, except that instruments such as a harpsichord, clavichord, etc., could be included in addition to the organ(s).
- ◆ **After-Service Organ Demonstration:** A simple demonstration of the organ following a worship service. This could consist of playing a special postlude, with members of the congregation invited to gather around the console to observe, followed by a demonstration of the stops and mechanisms of the organ and an invitation to those gathered to “play something” on the keyboards and pedals. (Optional look inside the organ or organ chambers.) This event could be advertized in the church bulletin several weeks in advance, along with an article in the church newsletter. It could be targeted to particular ages or open to all ages.
- ◆ **Introduction to the Organ Event:** An event connected with some other church or community activity (Sunday School, youth group meeting, fellowship meal, Bible School, scouting project, etc.), or a stand-alone event incorporating some elements from the suggestions above. This could be combined with a demonstration of other musical instruments the church has, such as handbells.

RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- A Young Person’s Guide to the Pipe Organ by Sandra Soderlund, with drawings by Catherine Fischer. Have one copy for each student. Available from national AGO .
- Video: Close Encounters (the one we have shown at PP&Ps)
- Organ pipes for demonstration purposes: contact Robert Nicholls or the UE organ department.
- The University of Evansville and First Presbyterian Church in Evansville both have a small portable organ (portativ) which might be available for use in organ demonstration events. (This might be particularly useful for events in churches or communities that don't have a real pipe organ, or that have a pipe organ that doesn't have any visible or accessible pipes.)
- Members of the Evansville Chapter who have participated in a Pedal, Pipes and Pizza event before will be glad to assist in the planning of similar events in other institutions or communities as needed.

ON THE INTERNET:

- AGO Website: Chapter Outreach to New Organists (bibliography of resources in TAO and other sources): <https://www.agohq.org/education/chapter-outreach-to-new-organists/>
- AGO Website page on education (many interesting links): <https://www.agohq.org/education/professional-education/>
- THE CHALLENGE: TEACHING THE ORGAN TO YOUTH, Dr. Shelly Moorman-Stahlman <https://www.agohq.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/chicagoago.doc> (listed as “Chicago” on AGO site above)