# Newsletter for the Evansville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists February 2013

# EVANSVILLE A.G.O. WORKSHOP: ORGAN FOR PIANISTS AND PIANO FOR ORGANISTS

February 25, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 100 E. Michigan St., Evansville

Are you a pianist who plays the organ? Do you struggle finding good music that suits your abilities on the organ while still giving you an opportunity to develop your skills? Are you nervous about playing with your feet? Do you find yourself relying on the same organ pieces from year to year? If so, this workshop has



been designed for you. Matthew Vanover, Director of Music and Organist at Henderson First UMC, will share examples and suggestions of quality organ music that any pianist should feel comfortable and proud to play. Matthew will also share a very practical method of creating solo organ pieces out of hymns. For the organist, Matthew will share a few techniques that he uses regularly when leading hymns on the piano in those situations when the organ is not playable or unavailable. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Matthew at <a href="matthew.vanover@gmail.com">matthew.vanover@gmail.com</a>. A promotional flyer is available on our website at <a href="http://www.evansvilleago.org/Workshop-2013-Feb.pdf">http://www.evansvilleago.org/Workshop-2013-Feb.pdf</a>.

## TINKER MEMORIAL ORGAN PROJECT

At our Executive Committee meeting on January 7, Tammy Gieselman, Douglas Reed and members of the University of Evansville AGO Chapter led a discussion about the Tinker Memorial Organ, the urgent need to remove it from the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Coliseum and put it in storage, and its proposed eventual re-purposing for use on the University of Evansville campus. A prepared PowerPoint presentation was offered. After discussion, the Executive Committee approved a gift of \$10,000 from our chapter to the University of Evansville, to go toward the \$20,000 needed to remove and store the instrument. A motion was made to set up an interest free, internal loan from the Dufford Scholarship Fund to our checking account in the amount of \$10,000. The loan will be repaid from our general checking account back to the Dufford Fund, in the amount of at least \$300 annually, until repaid in total.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR FUTURE EVENTS AND PROGRAMS:

**Saturday March 9, 2013**: Pedals, Pipes and Pizza for children will take place at Neu Chapel on the campus of the University of Evansville in the morning. See our website for more information.

**Friday March 15, 2013:** Pedals, Pipes and Tacos, an introduction to the organ for adults, will take place at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Evansville, followed by dinner at Hacienda across the street from St. Anthony's. For more information or to RSVP see our website or contact Carolyn at "<a href="leadams\_1@juno.com">leadams\_1@juno.com</a>.

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Our Epiphany House Party was at the home of Neal Biggers and David Motz on January 7, 2013.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.evansvilleago.org

**Saturday April 6, 2013:** Our chapter will host four contestants in the National Competition for Young Organists, at Trinity United Methodist Church in downtown Evansville. More details coming soon.

**Saturday April 20, 2013:** We will do a Bach-a-thon fundraiser at Aldersgate United Methodist Church in Evansville. Get your Bach ready to play! Check our website for the day's schedule and a pledge form. Email Neal at <a href="mailto:nealbiggers@yahoo.com">nealbiggers@yahoo.com</a> to sign up for time on the schedule. Standard time slots are thirty minutes, but you can choose less or more time if you prefer.

**Monday May 6, 2013:** We will have our annual dinner, chapter meeting and installation service at First United Methodist Church in Henderson. Details TBA.

**Looking way ahead: Sunday April 19, 2015:** The Canadian Brass and Douglas Reed will premier a new composition by William Bolcom at First Presbyterian Church in Evansville.

## ROBERT NICHOLLS FEATURED IN TAO ARTICLE

Congratulations to Robert Nicholls for his article in the February 2013 edition of The American Organists magazine! The article presents an extensive interview with Robert regarding his preparation for, participation in and winning of the National Competition in Organ Improvisation. It is full of inspiration, information, resources and tips that will benefit all organists as we develop our own improvisational skills. It also offers insights into how working on improvisation improves one's general musicianship and one's competence as a church musician. You can see the article online here:



http://firstpresevansville.com/mediafiles/robert-american-organist.pdf

## SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS

Our executive committee is already beginning to plan programs and events for our 2013-2014 season. If you have suggestions or ideas you'd like to share with us, please contact our dean, Neal Biggers at nealbiggers@yahoo.com.

#### FROM OUR MAILBOX:

Pipes and Prophets, A Festival of Young Preachers, will be held at the University of Evansville on Friday and Saturday, February 15-16 in Neu Chapel. The Festival seeks to encourage and inspire prophetic and innovative preaching and musicianship among young people, ages 14-28. Participants will proclaim the Word from both the pulpit and the pipe organ throughout the day on Saturday. Participating young organists include Evansville AGO and UE AGO chapter members, Rachel Bennett, Joe Luegers, Henry Maurer, and Matthew Vanover. The Festival will begin with a worship service on Friday, February 15 at 9:30 p.m. in Neu Chapel. Saturday's activities will begin with worship at 9:00 a.m. with keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr., the Lord Leslie Griffiths of Pembrey and Burry Port, Superintendent Minister of Wesley's Chapel, the Cathedral of World Methodism in London, England and a member of the House of Lords, Labour Party. The Neu Chapel Jazz ensemble, choirs from First United Methodist Church, Henderson, KY, and Nazarene Missionary Baptist Church, Evansville, IN, organists, and other musicians will participate in Friday and Saturday worship. Pipes and Prophets is sponsored by the University of Evansville Department of Religious Life, the Neu Chapel Society, and the Academy of Preachers. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, write Dr. Gieselman (tg85@evansville.edu) or Dr. Reed (dr5@evansville.edu) or call the Chapel office: 812-488-2235.

**Chanticleer...Live in Concert:** Saturday, April 13, 2013, 7:30 pm, Victory Theatre, Evansville, Indiana. This is part of the celebration of the centennial of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville. Tickets are available at <a href="http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/05004A3DF9E5B669">http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/05004A3DF9E5B669</a> or at the Ford Center Box Office.

**Region V Convention** of the American Guild of Organists will be held in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, Michigan, June 30 - July 3, 2013. See this website for more information: <a href="www.agokalamazoo.org">www.agokalamazoo.org</a>.