



# Principal Pipings

Vol. 69, Issue 3 November, 2013

## Greetings from the dean

Hello AGO Friends!

I don't know about you, but I don't think I can remember a time when we have had so many wonderful organ recitals and choral events in our area! I hope you have been able to attend at least a few of them. I come away from these performances enthused about the quality of the music our members are making. And I've heard lots of new literature that I want to try. It's almost like being at a regional convention, only spread out over numerous weeks instead of being packed into a few short days.

Bonnie and I attended the annual Kentucky-Indiana AGO deans' meeting this past weekend. We came away with some great ideas for next year. We also want to hear your thoughts, so if you have a particular program or recitalist you'd like to have considered for 2014-15 please let us know. It will be time to begin work on next year's programming before we know it!



It does seem like this year is passing swiftly, and Advent and its attendant busyness is almost upon us. It's easy to be consumed by the myriad rehearsals and performances that inundate musicians at this time of year, so don't forget to give yourself some down time to enjoy the season. May you have a blessed holiday season, and we'll catch you in January at our post-holiday potluck and choral/organ reading session.

Merry Merry!

Jane

# 9th Annual Bach Marathon

SAT / 03.22.14

9.00a - noon

Maxwell Street Presbyterian  
180 E. Maxwell Street, Lexington, KY

This is the year our AGO chapter completes its performances of the entire organ works by J.S. Bach. The selections for the 9th Annual Bach Marathon are the six trio sonatas, BWV 525-530. Enough interest has been generated prior to this article to have four of the six sonatas pre-assigned to the following AGO members:

Trio Sonatas BWV 525-530

1. E-flat Major, BWV 525 – John Linker
2. C minor, BWV 526 – Lisa Hall
3. D minor, BWV 527
4. E minor, BWV 528
5. C major, BWV 529 – Mark DeAlba
6. G major, BWV 530 – Schuyler Robinson

The sonatas will be performed from 9:00am - 11:00 am. From 11:00 am - Noon players are invited to perform organ transcriptions of Bach's instrumental or choral repertoire. Maybe you have played arrangements of Bach's "Air on a G-string" or the "Arioso" in F Major. There are many more arrangements available.

Did you know Louis Vierne transcribed the *Sicilienne* from the E-flat Flute Sonata, BWV 1031? Max Reger arranged several Bach works for organ including the Chromatic Fantasie and Fugue in D minor, BWV 903 (as you can imagine the transcription is full of Reger-type crescendos, diminuendos, and extensive registration changes).

There is also the uplifting *Sinfonia* from Cantata No. 29, *Wir danken dir, Gott* or the haunting yet beautiful *Sonatina* from Cantata No. 106, *Gottes Zeit ist die Allerbeste Zeit (Actus Tragicus)*. You can find several arrangements for both of these movements.

Please respond today about the remaining two trio sonatas or organ arrangements of Bach's choral and instrumental music. The program must end at noon in order not to interfere with the afternoon session of the Bach Marathon at Faith Lutheran which begins at 1:00pm.

Clif Cason, [clif.cason@gmail.com](mailto:clif.cason@gmail.com)



# Reflections on Preparing for the Service Playing Exam

by Kathy Egner

Yesterday was Halloween with lots of scary spirits filling the air. As I was thinking about writing this column, it occurred to me that learning to transpose is for me a lot like Halloween-pretty scary. The problem is that I was never taught to play anything that wasn't explicitly written on the printed page. I used to joke that I couldn't play an "Amen" without having the music in front of me! So this segment of the exam is the one that I have been most worried about and the one that might have kept me from pursuing it at all.

What was most encouraging to me was to hear two organists whom I greatly admire talk about how difficult it was for them also. The words that stayed in my mind were: "Transposing is a learnable skill." While I didn't believe that some people were born with the ability to transpose, I did think that certain brains were better wired for that type of activity. Now, granted, a young person's brain may be more flexible, making it a lot easier to learn a new skill. I decided to change my thinking about brains and wiring and flexibility and simply decide that I could learn to transpose. I read all sorts of tips in the resources available from the AGO. I relied on a couple of organist friends to be my cheerleaders. (You can do it-yes you can!) It has taken months, but I am finally able to transpose my hymn (very slowly, mind you) into all four required keys with not too many mistakes. By the time I take the exam I should have it down!

How did I do it? Other than pure persistence and some tears, I didn't follow any one particular method. I know that the best way to become a proficient transposer is to be a proficient reader of intervals. At the beginning, though, that was not very easy for me. I first transposed one voice, then two, and gradually added the other voices. Progress was not straight forward; instead there were ups and downs. I admit, there were times when I almost gave up. However, I have found that as I get better and better at it, I do read the intervals more consistently and reliably.

The bottom line is that all the work has definitely been worth it. You can imagine the triumph I felt when, for the first time, I played my hymn in different keys for a friend. (That's the first time anyone has heard me trying to transpose except for my poor husband, bless his soul.) If you are like me, then, don't let the Halloween spooks get to you. Transposing is a learnable skill. You can do it-yes you can!

**Principal Pipings** is published ten times annually by the Lexington, KY AGO Chapter. The chapter also maintains the web site [www.agolexington.org](http://www.agolexington.org). Deadline for submission of articles is the 1st of each month. Address editorial correspondence and requests for changes to [www.agolexington.org](http://www.agolexington.org) to: Scott Heydinger, [sheydinger@yahoo.com](mailto:sheydinger@yahoo.com)

# September Area Events

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SAT / 11.16.13

9.30p - 3.30p

**Mini AGO Convention - CANCELLED!**

Louisville

SAT / 11.16.13

7.00p

**Ecco Chamber Choir**

Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

SUN / 11.17.13

4.15p

**Roy Nance & David Goins, Organ/Trumpet Recital**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington

SUN / 11.24.13

4.15p

**Rob Vanover, Organ**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington

SUN / 12.01.13

4.15p

**Owen Sammons, Organ**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington

FRI / 12.06.13

7.00p

**Messiah**

Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

SAT / 12.07.13

7.30p

**Messiah, Lexington Chamber Chorale**

Cathedral of Christ the King, Lexington

SUN / 12.08.13

4.15p

**Jane Johnson, Organ**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington

SUN / 12.15.13

4.15p

**John Linker**

Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington

SUN / 12.15.13

5.00p

**Sing Noel, Lexington Chamber Chorale**

Central Baptist Church, Lexington

FRI / 12.20.13

12.00p

**A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten**

Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

SUN / 12.22.13

7.00p

**A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington

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We're pleased to announce that in addition to sponsoring our annual directory (which we apologize for not actually stating in the directory) John Paul Buzard has now also sponsored this publication. Many thanks to Goulding & Wood and John Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders for their support of our chapter!



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