# Principal Pipings

## November 2018, Vol. 74, Issue 4

## **Dean's Message**

Happy November!

November is one of my favorite months – the weather has finally gotten cooler to stay for a few months, the leaves are at their most brilliant, holidays are getting near, and the Christmas music is starting to come out of the bottom of the bench.

November is also exciting this year because we are having a workshop with Patty Saunders, director of the Alluring handbell ensemble, on Nov. 10 at Crestwood Christian. This will be fun for everyone, even if your church does not have handbells or you've never played one.

Thank you to everyone who came out to support last month's joint event with the Bluegrass Theatre Organ Society at the Kentucky Theater. It was a hit! Attendance was great, and it helped put out the word for the need to get the Wurlitzer back in action.

As we look forward to the rest of our program year, I would like to begin to advertise for our Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event that will take place on Feb. 2, 2019, at First Presbyterian and Christ Church Cathedral. The goal of this event is to introduce young piano students to the pipe organ, so if you know of a piano teacher or you teach middle or high school piano students, please contact me so I can begin to compile a mailing list soon.

A final date to put on your calendar is June 30-July 3, 2019. This is the Region V Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They already have their website up and running, and it looks like they have a great lineup of recitalists and events! This won't be one to miss!

# In this Issue



James

# Upcoming Events

- 11.04.18 UK Guitar Quartet, 3:30pm All Souls Evensong with the Cathedral Choir, 4:00pm Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY
- 11.10.18 "Handbell Techniques for Organists"
  9:30am Workshop, Patty Saunders Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington, KY
- 11.11.18 Prelude for Brass and Organ, 3:30pm A Service of Remembrance with the Cathedral Choir, 4:00pm Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY

#### 11.13.18 Larry Sharp, organ

- 12:20pm Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Campbellsville, KY
- 11.25.18 Songs of Celebration and Joy
- 5:00pm Lexington Chamber Chorale Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY
- 12.07.18 Handel's Messiah (ticketed event)
- 7:30pm Cathedral Choir, Lexington Baroque Ensemble, and Soloists Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY
- Fourth Annual "Christmas Pipes" Concert and Holiday Reception
   LexAGO Members
   Central Baptist Church, Lexington, KY

#### 12.09.18 Blue Christmas with Pleasant Company

- 6:00pm Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY
- 12.16.18 **Prelude (6:30pm) and A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (7:00pm)** The Cathedral Choir Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY

#### 12.21.18 A Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten

12:00pm Elaine Cook, harp, Cathedral Girls Choir Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY

### GREAT MUSIC at Christ Church Cathedral 2018-2019



100th Anniversary of Veterans Day

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

3:30pm Prelude for Brass and Organ4:00pm A Service of Remembrance with the Cathedral Choir and Cathedral Brass







#### George Frideric Handel's Messiah

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 7:30pm

Emily Yocum Black, Soprano Ryland Angel, Countertenor Richard Clement, Tenor Evan Boyer, Bass

The Lexington Baroque Ensemble The Cathedral Choir Erich Balling, Conductor Kathleen Balling, Associate Conductor Joel Pitchon, Concert Master

For Ticket Reservations, visit www.ccclex.org/messiah

Please visit www.ccclex.org to view the complete list of events.

166 Market Street • Lexington, Kentucky • 40507

# October Event Report

On Sunday evening, October 7<sup>th</sup>, The Lexington Chapter of The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and The Bluegrass Chapter of The American Theatre Organ Society (ATOS) held a joint event at The Kentucky Theater in downtown Lexington. More than 300 people attended the event, which included members and officers of both chapters, theater patrons, and lovers of artistic endeavors in central Kentucky. Lexington AGO Dean James Humlong and The Bluegrass ATOS Chapter President Timothy Jones greeted the audience before the program began.

Mr. John Baratta, a talented theatre organist from The New York Theatre Organ Society and The Northern New Jersey Chapter of the AGO treated the enthusiastic crowd to a forty five minute organ concert and a great American sing-along with words on the theater's screen. Following intermission, Mr. Baratta used the theater's temporary organ (3-manual Allen MDS Theatre-III) to accompany the 1927 silent comedy film "COLLEGE" starring Buster Keaton. At the end of the movie, he received a standing ovation from the cheering and



The completed Wurlitzer III/18 console

applauding crowd.

The event raised over \$3,300 towards the restoration of The Kentucky Theater's historic 3-manual, 18-rank Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ, which was installed in the theater in 1926. It was an excellent example of the growing cooperation between AGO and ATOS chapters in supporting the King of Instruments together. Recent national conventions of the AGO have included prominent theatre organists in concert. Jane Johnson, a past dean of the Lexington AGO Chapter who is also a

member of the Bluegrass ATOS Chapter recently remarked that in her view, a pipe organ is a pipe organ whether it be classical, church, or theatre, and that supporting them is essential to the future of the organ as a whole. Fourteen members of the Bluegrass ATOS chapter are also members of the AGO chapter in Lexington. Our hope is to make this an annual event at The Kentucky Theater.

-William Webber, CAGO

Our November program will be at Crestwood Christian Church on Nov. 10. We will gather at 9:30 for refreshments provided by our wonderful Hospitality Committee, and our program will start at 10:00. This should be done around noon, so everyone in attendance is welcome to go as a group for lunch afterwards.

Our program this month will be led by Patty Saunders. Patty is the director of the Alluring Community Handbell Ensemble, a local auditioned group, as well as the Music Makers, a children's chime choir. She is the Education Chair for Area Five of the Handbell Musicians of America. Many of you may remember Patty from our January Jubilee earlier this year. Our survey results show that her workshops were the highest rated of all our programming for the Jubilee!

Patty's workshop will be "a fun and informative overview of handbell notation, technique, and reading skills and will address bells in worship settings." Come join us for this exciting program!

# Chapter News

#### November Program



Patty Saunders



LexAGO members and guests at the handbell workshop at Christ Church Cathedral at the 2018 January Jubilee



**Principal Pipings** 

# **Chapter News**

#### Chapter Updates

Lexington will once again be an AGO Exam Certification Center for 2019. Jane Johnson is the coordinator for this. AGO certification is a great way to improve and challenge your organ skills, and is a significant professional milestone. Lexington has quite a few members that have been certified, and all five certifications are represented. If you are interested in taking one of these exams, I encourage you to reach out to one of these people (whose names can be found in the front of your yearbook) and see if they can help mentor you through the process. More information can be found at agohq.org.

#### In the news:

Look for Lexington Chapter member Carolyn Craig in the "Appointments" section of your November TAO magazine. You can read about her appointment as the organ scholar at Truro Cathedral in England, which is most famous for the creation of the "Nine Lessons and Carols" in 1880 that so many of our churches use. Carolyn has performed several recitals in Lexington, most recently her senior recital at Christ the King Cathedral last spring. Congratulations Carolyn!



Members of both the LexAGO and BG-ATOS gather for a picture with John Barrata prior to the recital and silent film at the Kentucky Theater in October

Are you interested in playing for the Fourth Annual Christmas Pipes Recital? If so, we need one or two more performers. Please submit your name to James Humlong no later than November 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be held at Central Baptist Church with host organist Mark DeAlba on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

# **Chapter News**

Member's Favorite Christmas Pieces Advent and Christmas are just around the corner! If you're tired of playing the same old arrangement of "Joy to the World", then keep reading. Below are some of our members' favorite pieces they like to play this time of year – just in time to order it and learn it for your church!

A Christmas piece for organ I like is "The Birthday of a King" by William Neidlinger, arranged by Lani Smith (Dayton, Lorenz Publishing, 1971). – **Bill Webber** 

I love David Cherwien's arrangement of Silent Night, which I use every year as a long introduction to the hymn on Christmas Eve. – **Jane Johnson** 

An organ piece for the Advent season that I have enjoyed playing is "Toccata on the Gregorian Hymn 'Creator alme siderum" by Pietro A. Yon. This toccata is a festive, accessible, and fun piece to play. It can be found for free online through imslp.org. – **Anna Pan** 

As I make plans for my fifth Christmas season at Beaumont Presbyterian, the only organ piece I intentionally include every year is J. S. Bach's "Wachet Auf." A close second would be "Es ist ein Ros' entsprugen" by Brahms. These two staples of the organ repertoire are hard to beat! In a more contemporary vein, I often turn to Christopher Uehlein's "Dance Prelude on 'Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella." It is suitable for the entire Christmas season – Christmas Eve, special programs, and even December weddings. I have also played it with flute and violin soloists. It's quite versatile! - Larry Sharp

My favorite Christmas piece is "Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol" by Gerald Near; Aureole Editions AE151, published in 2006. It's a masterful arrangement, flowing seamlessly through unexpected harmonic changes for 9 pages. A Handbell version is also available. – Lynn Vera

Two of my favorite Advent and Christmas organ collections are Paul Manz's Six Advent Improvisations (Morning Star) and Christopher Uehliein's A Blue Cloud Abbey Christmas Organ Book (Augsburg Fortress). Both of these collections contain simply arranged variations that sound lovely, with a minimum amount of practice. My favorite Advent piece is J. S. Bach's "Sleepers Awake". One of my favorite Advent hymns is "Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending." My heart rises up as the congregation sings it, especially as a processional. – **Angela Hurley** 

One of my favorite pieces for Christmas is Keith Chapman's arrangement of "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly." It uses the tender strings in both hands with a soft reed in the pedal playing the melody. Another piece I use a lot is "On This Day, Earth Shall Ring" arranged by Robert Hobby, which is written in a bouncy Renaissance dance style. – **James Humlong** 









# GREAT MUSIC

#### 2018-2019

Evensongs 3:30pm Concerts 4:00pm Evensongs with the Cathedral Choir

September 30 November 4 January 20 February 17 March 17 May 19

Friday, December 7 7:30pm George Frideric Handel's Messiah with the Cathedral Choir For ticket reservations visit www.ccclex.org/messiah

Sunday, December 16 7:00pm A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with the Cathedral Choir

Friday, December 21 Noon *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten Elaine Cook, harp, and the Cathedral Girls Choir

Palm Sunday, April 14 4:00pm Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* with the Choir of Men and Boys



Please visit www.ccclex.org to view the complete list of events.

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