



**Kerner & Merchant Pipe Organ Builders, Ltd.**  
Building, Rebuilding, Restoring, Tuning  
and Repairing of Pipe Organs

104 Johnson Street • East Syracuse • New York 13057-2840  
(315) 463-8023 • FAX (315) 431-4835

**דוד לויד בן יעקב יהודה קלפר - דוד**  
**David Lloyd Klepper, c/o Cerami Associates**

518 Fifth Avenue, 8th Floor, NY, NY 10036  
212-382-2829 • fax: 212-382-0855  
Israel: Meyersdorf Faculty Club, Mt. Scopus  
POB 24100, Jerusalem 91905; 972-2819266

Member:  
American Institute of  
Organbuilders

Benjamin Williams  
Owner

Traditional Quality  
Craftsmanship  
Electro-Pneumatic Actions  
New Organs  
Tracker Restorations  
Electrical Renovations



**Kowlton Organ Co.**

P.O. Box 24 • Davidson, NC 28036  
1-800-446-2647 • Fax 704-892-4266

**Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc.**

Pipe Organ Builders Since 1915

8466-A Tyco Road  
Vienna, VA 22182  
1-800-952-PIPE

**Charles W. McManis**

Voicer & Tonal Finisher

20 Cowles Road  
Woodbury, CT 06798  
(203) 266-4066



**MILNAR  
ORGAN  
COMPANY**

ORGANBUILDING &  
RESTORATIONS

3165 Hill Road  
Eagleville, TN 37060  
(615) 274-6400

Dennis, Derek, Jeff & Todd Milnar  
and Associates



**NICHOLS & SIMPSON, INC.**  
ORGANBUILDERS

P. O. BOX 7375  
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72217  
501-661-0197

C. JOSEPH NICHOLS WAYNE E. SIMPSON, III

**NOACK**

THE NOACK ORGAN CO., INC.  
MAIN AND SCHOOL STREETS  
GEORGETOWN, MASS. 01833  
TELEPHONE (508) 352-6266

## THE NEW ORGANIST ORGANIST FOR THE DAY

Janis Haustein, SSND

How would you like to be "Organist for the Day?" How would you like hands-on experience at the great organs in Chicagoland? These invitations to young piano students have proved very successful in recruiting participants for the "Organist for the Day" program of the Chicago AGO Chapter. We sought collaboration with several chapters of the Illinois Music Teachers Association, whose piano teachers agreed to promote interest among their students by releasing their mailing lists. Fliers are now sent to approximately 400 teachers for each scheduled event. Four events have occurred over three years and have involved 35 students. Interest has been high among the junior-high-age students, but lately more senior-high students have attended the program.

The introductory activity, "Getting Acquainted with the Organ," is a one-hour presentation by Sally Cherrington on organ mechanisms, fingering and pedaling techniques, and the families of pipes. She also presents samples of music and technical exercises and challenges students to try them during their upcoming time at a practice organ. For the rest of the morning the students work at an organ with their mentor.

The "mentor for the day" is a highly successful feature of the program. An AGO member is partnered with one or two students to assist them during the day, to encourage and teach them, and to answer their questions. We feel this one-on-one aspect has lessened whatever intimidation the students might experience as they attempt new techniques, try prepared piano pieces on the organ, and begin to explore the vast possibilities of sound at their disposal.

The organ facilities at Moody Bible Institute and Northwestern University were made available to the students for the entire morning. With four organs at our disposal, each student was given a reasonable amount of time on an organ. We have been able to keep the student/organ ratio at 2:1 because of the generous hospitality of these two music schools.

Four hours of the afternoon are spent at an organ crawl. Within the large metropolitan Chicago area we have several fine locations where we can center this crawl. So far, we have visited the Chicago Loop and the Evanston area because of their large organs. Students hear a demonstration of each instrument by the resident organist and then have the opportunity to view the interior mechanisms and pipework. Students are invited to play each instrument. Some choose to explore the different sonorities of the organ; others prefer to play their "prepared" piece. One handicap we have experienced

with a large group is the limited time a student may have on the instrument. In addition, opportunities to play a carillon and harpsichord have stretched the musical horizons of the energetic students.

At Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, the students view and play both the Casavant and the Flentrop organs. They are able to go inside the pipe chambers to see the trackers in action. Students have been intrigued by the Universal Air Chest system of the Austin organ at the Episcopal Cathedral of St. James. The Church of the Ascension or St. Chrysostom's Church, with its carillon, completes the tour in the Loop area. Each crawl features both mechanical-action and electropneumatic organs. The small tracker at Immanuel Lutheran and the two large Skinners at First Congregational and First Presbyterian in Evanston have illustrated well some major differences in organs.

To qualify for this day-long program, we ask students to be curious and have a desire to explore. They prepare for performance intermediate-level piano pieces, such as Kuhlau sonatinas and Bach minuets. A minimal registration fee of \$10 is charged to cover publicity costs.

We have found the interest level and excitement of the students to have been contagious. Some return for a second program or encourage their friends. On occasion, piano teachers have accompanied their students and recommended the day to other students. Most students have desired more time on the various organs and have indicated a desire for longer programs. Several have begun organ study as a result of the program. One has attended a summer session at Interlochen to study organ. As a follow-up to each program, photos taken throughout the day have been sent to each student. We have also sent notices of forthcoming events that might interest young students.

A possibility now under discussion for the next "Organist for the Day" program is to begin the evening before with the introductory explanations and preparations. This would enable us either to expand our tour or allow more time at each organ. We know from experience that interest in organs among junior and senior high students can be stimulated. The Chicago AGO Chapter has found one way.

**Janis Haustein SSND**, is a School Sister of Notre Dame of Mankato, Minnesota Province. She was coordinator of the committee for the restoration of the 1877 Johnson and Son organ in their Good Counsel Chapel. She is an organist in the Chicago area and a faculty member at the American Conservatory of Music.

**PETTY  
MADDEN**

p.o. box 305  
hopewell, new jersey 08525  
609 393-3905