

# PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER GRADUATE QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

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In the fall of 1994, the Committee on The New Organist determined that the Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) program had been in place long enough (since two pilot programs in 1988) to assess the long-term impact of the program. (For more information about POEs, see the article in the May 1995 TAO.) The committee was able to obtain lists from 18 out of 20 POEs. In late February, a questionnaire was sent to 505 students who had attended POEs from 1988 to 1994. Although every effort was made to locate each student, it is not known if all questionnaires were received. However, 167 (33%) of the questionnaires were returned. We have been told that this is a phenomenal rate of return (10% is considered good). Of the 167 returned, 42 had attended more than one POE.

Below is the questionnaire and the results. Not all of those who responded answered each question; four answered no questions on the second page. In results listing precise numbers, the total number answering the question is also given. Percentages are based on the total number answering the question. There are several instances where additional responses or comments have been added. Complete lists of jobs, majors, musical tastes, etc., are too extensive for the scope of this article. If interested in that information, please contact the Committee on The New Organist at AGO Headquarters.

## PIPE ORGAN ENCOUNTER GRADUATE QUESTIONNAIRE

number sent - 505      returned - 167      percentage - 33%

### PERSONAL and SCHOOL/MUSICAL STUDY INFORMATION

youngest age - 12 (b. 1983)      oldest age - 29 (b. 1966)

#### Breakdown of Returns:

junior/senior high	72
college/university	80
graduate school	3
in the work force	12
	<u>167</u>

(Work force includes two who are not in school and not employed full-time, but have part-time jobs.)

#### College Students - 80

Music Majors - 38	72
organ	12
church music	<u>3</u>
	15

#### Non-Music Minors - 23

(includes 6 music majors)

#### Graduate School - 3

music - 1
non-music - 2

#### Music Minors - 12

music majors	7
organ/church music	2
non-music majors	5

#### In the Work Force - 12

music occupations	- 6
non-music occupations	- 6

#### Non-Music Majors - 48

(includes 6 double majors, 5 with music)

#### 3a. Have you studied organ since attending a POE?

YES 125    NO 42    TOTAL 167    75% YES

#### b. Have you studied another musical instrument?

YES 143    NO 22    TOTAL 165    87% YES

If yes, what instruments? 79 named 2 or more instruments. piano-126, voice-27, trumpet-13, violin-10, flute-9, trombone-7, French horn-7, saxophone-5, percussion-5, viola-4, cello-4, baritone horn-3, bells-3, harp-2, guitar-2, keyboard/synthesizer-2, oboe-2, 1 each of string bass, carillon, bassoon, timpani, alto horn, conducting

#### 4. How much has/have POE(s) you attended influenced your choices of school, major, or musical study? (Circle one)

very much	5	4	3	2	1	0	not at all
response:	4	14	26	32	25	17	14
							31
							Total <u>163</u>

(3 had already chosen music as a major and said POE was not a factor.)

## MUSIC-RELATED EMPLOYMENT

5a. Are you regularly employed as an organist?  
YES 63    NO 102    TOTAL 165    38% YES  
(2 volunteer in their churches.)

b. If yes, do you also direct choirs?  
YES 28    NO 43    TOTAL 71    39% YES

6. Are you an organ substitute?  
YES 66    NO 97    TOTAL 163    40% YES

### BREAKDOWN OF MUSIC-RELATED EMPLOYMENT: 5a, 5b, and 6

(Totals are not the same as above because students counted themselves twice if they have jobs and substitute.)

#### Junior-Senior High Students - 72

church job	11
substitute	14
job and substitute	<u>16</u>
	41

57% play in church.

#### College Students - 80

##### Music Majors - 38

church job	6
substitute	9
job and substitute	<u>11</u>
	26

68% music majors play in church.

100% organ and church music majors play in church.

##### Non-Music Majors - 42 (excludes 5 double majors with music)

church job	2
substitute	5
job and substitute	<u>2</u>
	12

28% non-music majors play in church.

(5 non-music majors have music minors. 3 of the 5 play in church. They are included in this category. All music minors are included in the area of their major.)

Total college students playing in church - 38    47%

#### Graduate School - 3

Music - 1	
church job	1
Non-Music - 2	
church job	<u>2</u>
	3

100% graduate students play in church.

#### In the Work Force - 12

Music occupations - 6	
church job	5
Non-music occupations - 6	
church job	2
substitute	<u>1</u>
	8

66% play in church.

90 out of 167 returned questionnaires play in church - 54%.

7. Have you ever played for a church service, wedding, or funeral?  
 YES 135 NO 28 TOTAL 163 83% YES

8. If yes to 6 (substitute) or 7, were you paid?  
 YES 106 NO 27 TOTAL 133 80% YES  
 (YES and NO 2 = 135)

5c. Are you employed in any other capacity as a musician?  
 YES 58 NO 103 TOTAL 161 36% YES

d. If yes, how?

A variety of answers which include all of the following: accompanist (the majority), choral director, private teacher, music director (community, theater), music retail, community orchestra/band, cocktail pianist, pianist in church, free-lance composer/arranger/orchestrator.

MUSIC-RELATED ACTIVITIES

9. Do you sing in a choir?  
 YES 89 NO 74 TOTAL 163 55% YES

10. Do you play in an instrumental ensemble?  
 YES 60 NO 101 TOTAL 161 37% YES

11. Do you attend organ recitals?  
 YES 112 NO 50 TOTAL 162 69% YES

12a. Do you attend other concerts/musical performances?  
 YES 143 NO 12 TOTAL 155 92% YES

b. If yes, what kinds?

This answer was a little difficult to compile because of the overlap of categories and the liberal use of the word "classical" along with other very specific types. Most named at least two preferences. Concert attendance leans heavily toward classical (orchestra and recital), then choral, musicals, band, and some rock. College students tend to attend campus programs; high school students, their high school concerts. Many seem to have eclectic tastes.

13. What kind(s) of recordings do you buy?  
 See above explanation and include varieties of rock. The "top 5" are classical/orchestra-75, rock-39, organ-26, instrumental-24, all/varied-22.

14. What kind(s) of music do you listen to on the radio?  
 See above explanations. Eight said they rarely listen to the radio. The "top 5" are classical-56, rock-50, all/varied-17, pop-16, country, alternative-both 10.

15. How important is organ (and choral) music in your range of musical interest?

very important 5 4 3 2 1 0 unimportant  
 response: 9 68 30 19 17 10 4 1 TOTAL 158

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS PARTICIPATION

16. Are you an AGO member?  
 YES 59 NO 99 TOTAL 159 37% YES

If no, would you like to receive information about joining?  
 YES 41 NO 49 TOTAL 90 45% YES

17. Have you ever attended a local AGO chapter meeting?  
 YES 48 NO 115 TOTAL 163 29% YES

18. Have you ever attended an AGO convention?  
 YES 20 NO 142 TOTAL 162 12% YES

19. How important or relevant does the AGO seem to you as an organization, with respect to the promotion and protection of our organ and choral heritage? (Are we doing our job?)

very important 5 4 3 2 1 0 unimportant  
 response: 9 48 36 25 9 3 5 4 TOTAL 139  
 plus don't know 6 = 145

20. Please feel free to add any additional comments below.  
 YES 75 NO 88 TOTAL 163 46% added additional comments

breakdown of YES: jr./sr. high school - 36(72) college - 32(80)  
 graduate school - 1(3) work force - 6(12)

The comments were so many and varied that it is a little daunting to summarize them. All enjoyed their POE experience(s). Those who no longer play the organ said it was a worthwhile experience that increased their appreciation of the organ, its music, its value, and its role in music and their churches. The words hobby, pastime, and avocation were used often enough to note here. Most music majors said the week was an important factor in determining their career choices. In general, what they all liked best about the POEs was playing the organ, seeing organ factories and/or the insides of an organ, the caring concern of faculty and staff, and meeting and making friends their own age with the same interests. Seeing, playing, and hearing a wide variety of instruments were important to them. In their comments, more than half said "thank you" for providing the experience. There were commendations for specific leaders, teachers, and individuals, as well as for the program in general. There were very few complaints, but quite a few good and practical suggestions. Complaints tended toward the desire for more organ playing and/or practice time and more free time. It was suggested that there be more POEs each summer, and that the program needs more publicity. Among those who are AGO members there was a concern that there are not more young members of AGO chapters.

The Committee on The New Organist realizes that this is not a perfect questionnaire. However, it did assess basically what the committee wanted to know. The comments section will help the committee plan for future POEs. More than 80% of the questionnaires indicate an increased awareness, understanding, and appreciation of the pipe organ and its role. Sixty-eight percent say that they attend organ recitals as well as other concerts. Fifty-four percent are playing or substituting in churches. About one-fourth of them indicated that they hadn't thought of the organ as a possibility until they attended a POE. The results show a strong indication that the program is working and has had a positive effect.

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