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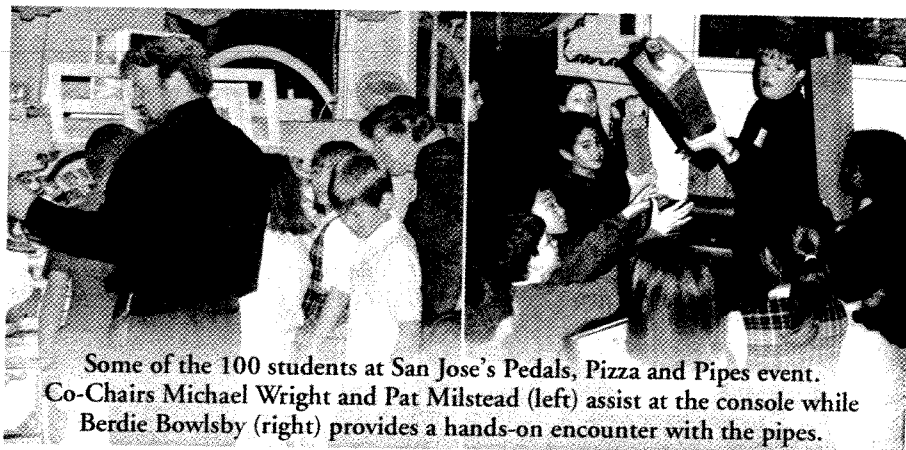
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100 STUDENTS TAKE PART IN PEDALS, PIZZA, AND PIPES



Some of the 100 students at San Jose's Pedals, Pizza and Pipes event. Co-Chairs Michael Wright and Pat Milstead (left) assist at the console while Berdie Bowsby (right) provides a hands-on encounter with the pipes.

How can you get a hundred students involved in a Pedals, Pizza, and Pipes? Start with one young AGO member who plays the organ at a pizza parlor and is also the music teacher for two different schools. Throw in a willing pizza restaurant owner, three teachers open to see the value of such a field trip, some eager parent volunteer drivers, and some helpful AGO members.

On Thursday, January 23, 2003, the San Jose Chapter sponsored a Pedals, Pizza, and Pipes event at Angelino's Pizza Restaurant for just such a group. The function was preceded by several classroom sessions introducing the students to the organ by means of the AGO's *Young Person's Guide to the Organ*, by showing *The Organist, Total Musician* video, and by the presentation of information in "The Organist—Total Musician." They were given one of the TO-TM tests before the day of the PPP. Some interesting questions came up as a result of these preparatory sessions, such as "Why is it called an ORGAN?"

The students entered the pizza parlor as staff organist and AGO member Michael Wright played the organ. (We remembered to unplug the video games before the students arrived!) Students then rotated through four stations manned by AGO members: one viewing the pipe chamber through the glass window outside with an explanation of the windchest, regulators, and tremulants; one viewing the chamber inside with an explanation of the old relays and a demonstration of the function of the shutters; and a third under the xylophone and glockenspiel, with a member demonstrating various kinds and sizes of loose sample pipes and exhibiting three-staff organ music and posters of pipe organs from various covers of *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST*. The fourth station was manned by Michael Wright at the console, demonstrating the manuals and pedals with the use of stops and couplers. A copy of TAO was placed on many of the tables where the students would be eating. Ample time was given to answer the many questions that arose.

Various kinds of music were played—from Buxtehude to the Overture from *Phantom of the Opera*—to demonstrate that many styles of music can be performed effectively on the organ. Both traditional and contemporary church hymns were played. The differences between pipe organs and electronic organs were discussed, along with the differences between church, concert, and theater organs. A flashy pedal piece was also played, and several piano students performed their pieces on the organ. Non-musicians were brought to the console to play a rote three-voice arrangement of "Mary Had a Little Lamb" utilizing black keys, with two other students pulling random stops. The students filled in the second worksheet from TO-TM while eating their pizza as the organ was played. Each student was given a model organ to put together.

As a follow-up to the PPP, the *Close Encounters* video was shown in classrooms to provide the students with an opportunity to witness other young people playing the organ and talking about their love of the instrument. We were fortunate to get most of our resources from the materials available from National Headquarters and appreciate the copies of *The Young Person's Guide to the Organ* they provided.

One of the teachers has already requested a repeat session next year. Our thanks to Dean Joyce Rhodes and Pat Milstead, who manned stations; members Michael Wright and Michael Wong; historian Bob Birnstihl, who took photos; and Berdie Bowsby, who brought her pipes and manned a station. They helped provide a fun-filled, educational experience for the students, all of whom will take a positive attitude toward the organ into their futures.

PATRICIA MILSTEAD
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