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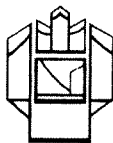
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## WHAT WORKS?

Lea Schmidt-Rogers

RECENTLY THE San Diego Chapter held a workshop entitled "What Works?—A Practical Forum." The goal was to share information about what is working effectively in our churches. What programs are we presenting? How are we engaging our youth in worship and, specifically, how are we introducing them to the organ?

### Performing *Rex, King of Instruments* by Daniel Burton

*Rex, King of Instruments* was commissioned by Chris Cook for the Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park for the Fifth Grade in the Park Program. Chris has performed this piece for thousands of fifth-graders in San Diego. This composition is a gift from the organ world to audiences of any age, a marvelous introduction to the organ, and just plain fun to hear. One member performed it between church services for Sunday school classes, for a city-wide fourth- and fifth-graders school program, for retired groups, and even in concert. A narrator presents the many facets of the organ in a rap-style delivery with the organist demonstrating stops, pistons, pedals, bells, and whistles.

### Reaffirming our chapter's interest in the Pipe Organ Encounter

One of the most successful events in our chapter's history was the Pipe Organ Encounter. All of the students that we nurtured are now friends of the organ, and many are playing the instrument seriously. We would like to host another POE in 2002.

Piano students in San Diego are invited to audition for scholarships to begin organ study. This has been successful. The scholarship program has enabled some of these students to attend POEs.

### Music camp

One church hosted a music camp last summer. Classes in theory, ensemble, and keyboard (organ, keyboard, and piano) were held for three hours every morning for one week for young people ages 8–17, divided into group lessons. The choir director and organist, plus a student helper, were the instructors. Students made great progress in theory and ensemble, performing in a recital at the end of the session. The participants also made a few new music friends.

### Let the students play

There is a shortage of young organ students. Our chapter believes that performing organ students tend to inspire pianists to take lessons. At least four organ instructors in the chapter regularly have their students play preludes, postludes, offertories, and hymns in their churches. Organ beginners and piano students have responded. We recently hosted a student recital on a Martin Ott instrument. Scholarship auditions in the spring will be on a Casavant, and the local Bach Festival will utilize a 100-rank Casavant. These experiences are inspirational for the students.

### Many organists and choir directors have presented special interest classes at their churches

"Music Appreciation (Ear Cleaning)" and "Music Theory (Music Basics for Choir Members, Past, Present, and Future)" were two special interest classes. One member gave workshops entitled "Music as a Mirror," "Bach, Handel, and Purcell," "A Brief History of Church Music," a class on Handel's *Messiah*, and "Guided Liturgies."

### Notes from the organ console

Begin a small column in the weekly bulletin or newsletter. Discuss historical topics, organ problems, composers, etc. This has met with an enthusiastic response in several churches.

### Informal hymn-sings

These might be accompanied on the organ, organ and piano, keyboard, and/or other instruments. The more participation the better.

### Materials

We shared our favorite hymnals and resources.

The program committee hopes to institutionalize this workshop by having more group discussion sessions, or perhaps by meeting in a local coffee shop. Organists are a creative lot. Combine this with working with great instruments, and it just has to inspire our youth and our congregations.