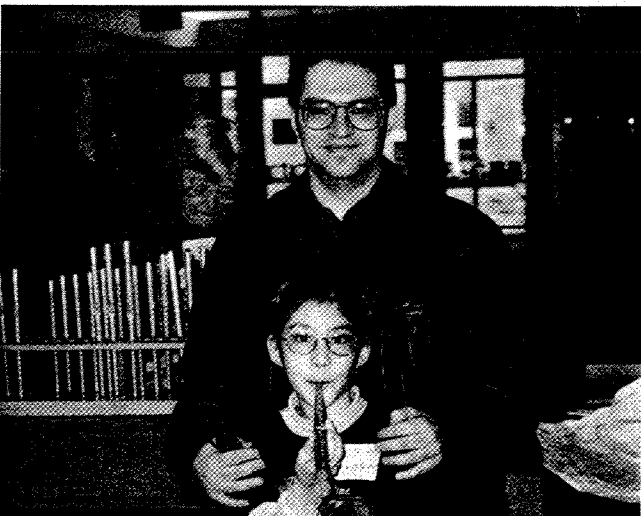
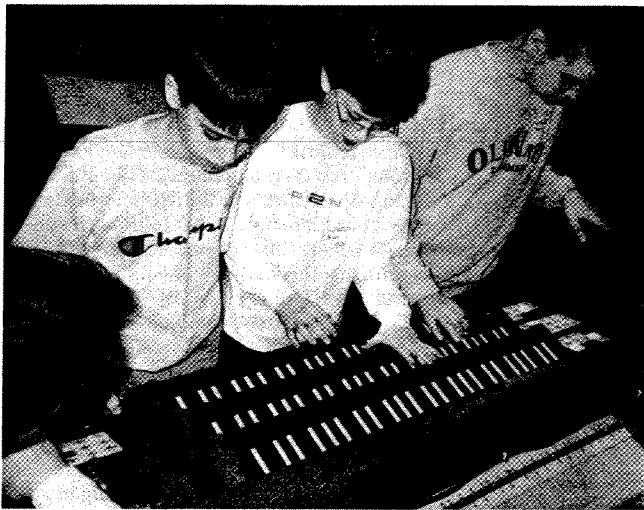


# ERIE CHAPTER PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA



**O**N SATURDAY, April 8, the Erie (Pa.) AGO Chapter hosted a "Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza" program to interest piano students in the pipe organ. It was held at the Cathedral of St. Paul (Episcopal) and at the First United Methodist Church in Erie. There were over 40 people registered—about 25 young people (ages 8 to 18) and 15 adults. The group also included about a dozen parents who stayed throughout the day and 15 chapter members.

The students were treated to a variety of presentations:

A performance of *Rex: The King of Instruments* (Burton)—William Witherup (dean), organist; George Knight, narrator

An introduction to the cathedral's Rieger organ—Sharon Harrington, organist and choirmaster

An explanation of how pipe organs are built and produce sound—Mark Fischer, organbuilder. Mr. Fischer removed panels in the console, etc., in order for the students to see the actions.

An introduction to the Lawrence Phelps organ at United Methodist Church—Andrew Rainbow, organist (Andrew is a high-school student)

Performances by student organists

A performance of the PDQ Bach *Toot Suite* (replete with earmuffs, cowboy hats, and Russian hats!)—Rebecca Borthwick-Aiken and William Witherup, organist

Pizza!

Each student had the opportunity to try a piano piece on one of the organs, including two portative instruments in the cathedral chapel. There was plenty of time for questions, and the students were not at all bashful about asking a myriad of them! The young students were perfect in behavior, never uttering so much as a peep when others were playing or being taught.

Each student was given a packet of materials, which included copies of *THE AMERICAN ORGANIST* and the Sandra

Soderlund/Catherine Fischer *A Young Person's Guide to the Pipe Organ*, an elegant brochure from Rieger Orgelbau direct from Austria, color photographs and brochures from the Schantz Organ Company, a newsletter from C.B. Fisk, a POE brochure from the Syracuse AGO Chapter for the young students, a POE+ brochure from the District of Columbia Chapter for the adult students, and sheets outlining the purposes of the Guild and including other information.

At the end of the day, each student was presented with an organ pipe by George Knight, who donated his unrepairable mixture for the cause! The place was suddenly alive with a cacophony of tootling as everyone departed!

Outside it was rainy and cold, but inside the sun shone on our chapter as we did our part in helping to create the next generation of organists! (Photographs by George Knight and William Witherup)

William Witherup, FAGO  
Dean, Erie AGO Chapter