

AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS FACT SHEET

- The American Guild of Organists (AGO) is the national professional association serving the organ and choral music fields. The Guild serves approximately 20,000 members in 330 chapters throughout the United States, Europe, Korea and Singapore.
- The Guild was formed in New York City in 1896. Its first chapter was the Pennsylvania Chapter, formed in 1901. The second chapter, then called the New England Chapter, was formed in 1905. The Guild has been headquartered in New York City since its inception.
- The Guild sponsors competitions in organ performance and improvisation and in organ and choral composition. National and regional conventions, held in alternate years, present the finest performers.
- AGO has received many prestigious awards, such as The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), as well as various grants.
- *The American Organist* magazine, published monthly by AGO, is the most widely read journal devoted to organ and choral music in the world.
- The newest chapter of the Guild is the Brigham Young University Idaho Chapter, formed in 2006.
- Currently there are 330 active chapters.

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ORGAN SPECTACULAR FACT SHEET

- The Organ Spectacular will be the showcase event of what the American Guild of Organists (AGO) has designated as the International Year of the Organ (IYO) 2008-2009.
- The Organ Spectacular takes place on October 19, 2008 when an estimated 250 organ concerts will be held throughout the world. Combined, this will be the world's largest organ concert and will feature the organ in its historic and evolving roles as a solo, accompanying and ensemble instrument. The event also will include a commissioned piece by David Vogels and written by Stephen Paulus.
- AGO recently held an international composition competition for a piece to be played on the Organ Spectacular. The winner is an American living and working in Germany. He was chosen from an international field of entrants.

For the Organ Spectacular, AGO chapters, plus many partner organizations from throughout the world, will be encouraged to plan a concert or recital that day featuring the organ.

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INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE ORGAN FACT SHEET

- The American Guild of Organists (AGO) has designated 2008-2009 as the International Year of the Organ (IYO). The year's events will begin at the national AGO convention in Minneapolis in June, 2008, and will conclude with the regional conventions in the summer of 2009.
- Showcasing the IYO will be an Organ Spectacular, during which an estimated 250 organ concerts will be held throughout the world. The event, scheduled to be held on October 19, 2008 will be the world's largest organ concert and will feature the organ in its historic and evolving roles as a solo, accompanying and ensemble instrument. The event also will include a commissioned piece commissioned by David Vogels and written by Stephen Paulus.
- For the IYO, AGO recently sponsored a Composition Competition (for a work for organ and C instrument that was played at each concert) and there were three winners in total: 1st place winner was from Germany, 2nd place winner was from England and the 3rd place winner was from California.
- The IYO will have educational events (hosted by organ builders and organ technicians) for people of all ages: Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza, lessons about the organ in the classroom, Pipeworks, organ crawls, etc.
- The IYO 2008-2009 is designed to attract new audiences to the organ and lay the groundwork for future events, fund-raising and membership in the AGO.
- The AGO's two primary objectives of Organ Spectacular: An International Organ Celebration 2008-2009 are to:
 - (1) Promote increased general public awareness of the organ; and
 - (2) Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles among current/previous organ enthusiasts and entirely new audiences

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