

TAO: President's Column, February 2008

Winners! **Organ Spectacular: An International Celebration of the Organ.** Winners! We will kick off the **International Celebration of the Organ, 2008-09** in Minneapolis at our national convention. The celebratory year will end at our regional conventions in 2009.

As part of this year-long celebration, **October 19, 2008** has been designated as the official date for our **Organ Spectacular** concert. Every chapter, along with various musical friends and groups from around the world, is encouraged to participate in this event. We hope that the winning composition from our composition competition for this event will be played on this concert.

The Professional Networking and Public Relations Committee is pleased to report that the composition competition was a wonderful success, with 36 entrants from around the world. Compositions were received from: California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, as well as from Canada, England, and Germany. The piece was to be for organ and C instrument, of easy to moderate difficulty, unpublished, and of no more than 5 minutes in length. We owe special thanks to Dr. Larry Schou, who chaired the competition, to all those who competed, and to our three judges: Mary Beth Bennett, Emma Lou Diemer, and Mark Sedio. It was a blind competition--the judges had no idea of who the composers were.

The first prize composition will be published by Concordia and will be discussed and analyzed on the BinAural Collaborative Hypertext (B.A.C.H.) site at www.bach.nau.edu website. We hope that most of the Organ Spectacular concerts on Oct. 19 will include this piece. The three prize winners received monetary prizes from Hal Hinkle, a benefactor to and patron of the arts, who has particular interests in the organ, Bach, and the environment.

The winners are:

1st prize: "Ornament of Grace" for organ and violin or oboe written by Bernard Wayne Sanders of Muehlheim, Germany

2nd prize: "Toccata Duo" for organ and trumpet, flute or violin written by Paul Ayres of Greenford, UK

3rd prize: "Reach for the Stars" for organ and oboe written by Jon Naples of Carlsbad, California

First prize winner Bernard Wayne Sanders is a native of DePere, Wisconsin where he completed his B.M. degree at St. Norbert College in 1979. Graduate study in composition and organ at Wichita State University led to the M.M. degree in 1983. Postgraduate study

in Germany culminated in a further degree in organ performance from the Hochschule für Musik in Hamburg in 1989. He has also completed examinations for Church Music in Hamburg and Cologne. His activities as a composer have been recognized in competitions and through representation in American and German publishing houses. Since 1974 active as a church musician, Sanders is full-time music director at the parishes of St. Gallus and St. Mary's in Tuttlingen, diocesan liaison and an official organ consultant for the Tuttlingen area (Baden-Württemberg). He resides with his wife and two daughters in Muehlheim, Germany.

Second prize winner Paul Ayres was born in London, studied music at Oxford University, and now works freelance as a composer, arranger, choral conductor, musical director, organist, and accompanist. His compositions usually involve words – solo songs, choral pieces, music for theatre productions – and he is particularly interested in working with pre-existing music, from arrangements of folksongs, hymns, jazz standards and nursery rhymes to 're-compositions' of classical works, as in *Purcell's Funeral Sentence*, *4A Wreck* and *Messyah*. Recent commissions include works for the BBC Singers and for the Seattle choir The Esoterics. Paul is assistant director of music at St George's Church Hanover Square, leads education workshops for children, plays piano for improvised comedy shows and has given many solo organ recitals in the UK, Scandinavia, Europe, North America and Australia. Visit www.paulayres.co.uk for more information.

Third prize winner Jon Naples of Carlsbad, CA, attended the University of Southern California where, in 1995, he earned his doctorate in music. Principal teachers were composers Morten Lauridsen and Frank Ticheli under whose tutelage Jon completed numerous projects leading to several composition awards. A frequent contributor of new original repertory through commissions from the Millennia Too! ensemble as well as others, Jon's music is frequently heard nationally in churches and music festivals where new music is featured. Twelve original compositions by Jon Naples can be found on the new art song CD: *My November Guest*, available through CDBaby.com and Ebay. Jon is Director of Sacred Music at St. Margaret Parish in Oceanside, CA.

Please keep watching this space for more details of plans for this celebratory year.