Dean’s Musings

The Old Adage that the teacher learns more than the student proved true for me last week. Several months ago I agreed to lead a four-week class on "Lent Through the Lens of Music--What Can Music Teach Us" at church. The class proposal listed an examination of Lenten hymns (no problem), and the last two weeks were to be devoted to looking at Bach's St. Matthew Passion (red flag).

The St. Matthew Passion is one of Christendom's greatest treasures and one of Bach's most complex scores. Out came Schweitzer, Spitta, Wolff, and I even went on the computer to find much first rate information. Thanks to YouTube, I listened to five or six performances and found a favorite that I consider first rate--by the Baroque Orchestra of the Netherlands (all of Bach). The fantastic choir was the size Bach probably used and all of the top-notch soloists were members of the choir. After many hours I managed to put together a presentation that the 15 +/- in attendance seemed to enjoy and find helpful.

My problem was that I had learned and gathered so much interesting information that it was difficult to be sufficiently careful in choosing what would support the basis of the class. As always, there were one or two in the group who were amazed that their organist could do something besides play the organ. This is nearly always a side benefit of these types of endeavors, and sufficient justification to undertake such activities. Below are some of the reasons why we all should present a seminar, write a music column in the church newsletter, give an organ demonstration, lead a music tour, etc. etc. etc.

- New friends & supporters for music were created, who are more likely to attend other musical events in the future. The voice of the organist was expanded; he is no longer the one who can merely play the organ.
- The music of Bach was made more accessible and understandable to those attending.
- Several people continued their quest for knowledge by attending the seminar at Virginia Theological Seminary on the St. Matthew Passion.
- The stated goal of letting music teach us something about Lent was at least partially achieved.

Some benefits to the teacher:

- learned some new computer tricks that are easily done when you know so little
- became reacquainted with the great scholars Schweitzer, Spitta, Wolff, and others
- discovered some wonderful material on the net
- listened to about half dozen recordings on youtube of varying qualities--discernment skills sharpened
- located one wonderful recording of the St. Matthew Passion, BWV 244 (all of Bach)
my concept of what constitutes good choral performance of Baroque music was reaffirmed and expanded
was constantly reminded of how much I didn't know and how much fun it can be to learn
became reacquainted with one of the greatest compositions ever written
reaffirmed the writer's lifelong fascination with and love of Bach's music

Steven Cooksey, Dean

THE GERMANS ARE COMING!
THE GERMANS ARE COMING!

… they, and some French, Swiss, and perhaps Scandinavian friends of theirs, all members of the European AGO Chapter (who knew?). They’re making a little visit to their American friends, checking out organs in large and small venues, and on their way between Roanoke and Washington, D.C., have been recommended to visit… (wait for it…) WINCHESTER!

Their schedule is as follows. The recital/ demonstrations on downtown organs are open to the public; alas, due to space constrictions, the dinner is not. But YOU are welcome to drop by for the recitals and make these folks, mostly speakers of English, feel welcome in our fair city. Thanks to Dr. Cooksey, Judy Connelly, and Linda Beville for coordinating the arrangements for this event; to our recitalists for their time and preparation; and to T. Lehman and her expert crew of youth-servers at Grace for providing the “typical Southern” meal.

European AGO Chapter Schedule
Thursday, April 20, 2017

4:30 p.m. arrive; park bus in Braddock Street UMC lot; spend time on Loudoun Street Mall
5:30 – 6:15 Christ Episcopal Church: recital/demonstration of Moeller/Taylor and Boody organ by Jim Kriewald
6:15 – 6:30 Walking onward
6:30 – 7:15 Grace Lutheran Church: recital/demonstration of Schantz organ by Daniel Hannemann
7:15 – 8:00 Dinner at Grace with a few WAGO chapter members (reserved)
8:00 – 8:15 Walking onward
8:15 – 9:00 Braddock Street United Methodist Church; recital/demonstration of Letourneau organ by Thomas Mitts
9:00- 9:30 Coffee and cookies – departure for Washington, D.C.
SUBSTITUTE AVAILABLE

My wife and I recently relocated to Winchester due to my wife's job. I have been a choir director and organist for 40+ years and have an interest in being placed on any substitute lists that might be available. I am a member of the AGO.

I have a masters degree in choral literature from the University of Iowa and a bachelor's degree in music from Maryville College. I served as a high school choir director for 30 years and a director of music for Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist churches in the Roanoke and Richmond areas over the course of my career.

You may reach me at 804-238-0295

John Myers

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The 2017 Luray Singing Tower recital season begins Saturday, April 1 at 3PM. Recitals are held every Saturday and Sunday at 3PM through April and May.

Please follow us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/LuraySingingTower) and check out our website (www.LuraySingingTower.com) for more information.

All recitals are free and held rain or shine.

Jesse Ratcliffe, carrillonneur

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Care and Concern

Most of you will know our past dean Larry Correll and will want to know that he has endured several recent hospitalizations as of this writing (April 12). His wife Sue can fill you in regarding visits, but be it known that he still enjoys encouraging conversations to his cell phone (1-703-395-4267) and cards to his home address: 111 Settlers Circle, Winchester, VA, 22602-6920. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and prayers.

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Thank You

Our faithful webmaster, Gloria Harris, wishes to convey her heartfelt gratitude to all who sang in the choir for the funeral of her husband Wesley, as well as to those who attended, sent cards, brought food, and expressed their Christian love and sympathy in multiple other ways. Your friendship and caring has meant so very much. God bless each of you.
Make your reservation now for
“An Evening of Southern Hospitality”

Winchester Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists
Friday, May 12, 2017

in the manner of
A Strolling, Progressive Dinner ~ Recital

5:30 p.m. Appetizer and Recital
Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
26 W. Boscawen St.

6:30 p.m. Sodexo Catered Main Course and Recital
Christ Episcopal Church
114 W. Boscawen St.

8:00 p.m. Recital and Dessert
Braddock Street United Methodist Church
115 Wolfe St.

Cost is $25.00 per person for the evening

All profits will benefit
The Blue Ridge Choristers and Top of Virginia Youth Ensemble

Advance reservations are required

online at:  braddockstreetumc.org, under events

or call 667-3366
Or send checks made payable to WAGO.
Braddock Street UMC, 115 Wolfe St.,
Winchester, VA  22601 - attn., Judy Connelly
Response deadline is May 2, 2017
Thanks to Marilyn Shenberger for a well-planned and -presented, and well-attended workshop on working with volunteer choirs, held at First Presbyterian Church, Winchester, on Saturday morning, March 11. Thanks also to the church, Pat Byers, organist, for hosting us, and to Linda Beville for the following photos:

IBO - Unidentified Breathing Object
The Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is excited to be hosting a Pipe Organ Encounter-Advanced from July 23-28 on the beautiful campus of Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, Washington. The POE-Advanced differs from a regular POE, as prospective students must submit a recording with their application. As a former POE attendee myself, this POE is great place to meet people your age with the same interest -- the organ -- but also to meet people from different backgrounds, and ones who might approach the organ differently from you.

Our discount registration deadline is Saturday, April 1, 2017. All applications must be received by Monday May 1, 2017 to be considered for the POE-Advanced in Seattle. If you are in need of a scholarship to attend a POE, please apply soon, as the deadline for scholarships is Saturday, April 15, 2017.

We are excited to feature a fantastic line-up of faculty members, including: Norma Aamodt-Nelson, Joseph Adam, Barbara Baird, Douglas Cleveland, Renée Anne Louprette, Dana Robinson, Paul Tegels, and Carole Terry, along with associate faculty member Michael Kleinschmidt.

The instruments that are going to be featured during the Seattle POEA feature a wide range of both new and historically-important instruments in Seattle and Tacoma, including organs built by Flentrop, Pasi, Rosales, Hutchings-Votey, Noack, Fisk, Fritts, Brombaugh. We have recently added a visit to a historic Wurlitzer here in Seattle as part of the POEA program.

The week will include practice time on various instruments throughout Seattle. Classes will be offered on topics such as physiology of keyboard playing, improvisation, service playing, pedal technique, and theatre organ. Various faculty members will teach two masterclasses: one will focus on German Baroque music, while the other will center on music from the French Romantic repertoire. Finally, the week will include performances by many of the faculty members, along with two closing POEA student recitals.

Registration for the Seattle POEA is found online only at https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/poe-advanced/. I encourage you to register early, prior to the "early bird" deadline of April 1, 2017. The brochure for the Seattle POEA can be found at http://agoseattle.com/LinkedDocs/POEABrochure.pdf. For more information in general, please visit the Seattle POEA website at http://agoseattle.com/poea2017.html.

If you should have any questions about the Seattle POEA, please direct emails to Wyatt Smith at smithwd2009@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
Wyatt Smith
Director, Seattle POEA
smithwd2009@gmail.com
(605) 430-3120
TRANSPORTATION DURING THE CONVENTION

With concerts, workshops, and meals located in multiple venues around Richmond, we have contracted for comprehensive bus transportation to be available for all days of the Convention. You can sign up to ride when you register your attendance, at the cost of $60 per person. You will also be provided with the opportunity to alert us to any mobility needs when you register as an attendee.

If you have a professional life beyond that of a church musician or educator, AND are interested in marketing to a regional audience, we hope you will consider placing an ad in the Convention’s program book.

For a recitalist, clinician, consultant, composer, or program developer, the program book is one way to get your name and contact information in front of every attendee coming to Richmond. And the information will be going home with those attendees when they leave the Convention. This is a wonderful way to supplement your word-of-mouth advertising efforts.

Information about the available ad sizes, rates, and deadlines for payments and ad copy can be found on the Convention’s website linked here: http://2017.richmondago.org/advertising-and-exhibiting/

And we have other ways to make known your support for the convention – a few concerts and workshops need financial champions, and there are still opportunities to add your logo to the tote bags, meals’ signage, and to stuff a marketing brochure into each attendee’s bag.

The deadlines for payments and submission of your ad’s copy are fast approaching. If you want more information on these items or to discuss these opportunities, please give us a call at 804-272-9656.

DO YOU WANT TO ADVERTISE?

THINGS TO DO IN RICHMOND

If you have never been to Richmond, you will be wonderfully surprised at the variety of activities, museums, architectural styles, restaurants, micro-breweries, history, educational institutions, and cultural attractions that are all around. We anticipate the daily bus routes will pass a few of these memorable locations. There is definitely a lot to see in this capital city!

For more about this wonderful city click on this link.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns, and we will respond to you as quickly as possible.

AGO 2017 Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention
Richmond, VA
Sunday, June 25 to Wednesday, June 28, 2017
Convention website http://2017.richmondago.org
Kenna Payne, Convention Coordinator

Phone 1-804-272-9656 kennajohnp@aol.com
CALENDAR

The Arts Chorale of Winchester is pleased to announce the spring concert series featuring The American Boychoir on Friday, April 7 and Handel and Haydn on Sunday, April 30th.

ACW will present The American Boychoir for one performance only on Friday, April 7, at 8:00 pm in Armstrong Concert Hall (Shenandoah University). Admission is by donation (suggested donation $20, free for children 12 and under). Any boys who wish to audition for the choir will have the opportunity to do so immediately following the concert.

ABOUT THE ABC: the choir is comprised of boys in fourth through eighth grades, reflecting the ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of the United States, who come from across the country and around the world to pursue a rigorous musical and academic curriculum at the American Boychoir School in Princeton, New Jersey. Learn more at www.americanboychoir.org.

ACW is also excited to present the final performance of the 2016/2017 season on Sunday, April 30 at 3:00 pm in Armstrong Concert Hall (Shenandoah University) featuring the music of Franz Joseph Haydn and George Frideric Handel, with live chamber orchestra and special guest soloists Rachel Barham (soprano), Shauna Kreidler-Michels (mezzo-soprano), Steve Cramer (tenor), and James Rogers (bass). Admission is by donation (suggested donation $20, free for children 12 and under).

Please visit www.artschoralewinchester.org or contact ACW Managing Director Elizabeth Albert at lizalbert1111@gmail.com for more information. The Arts Chorale of Winchester is thrilled to be presenting such a diverse and exciting spring concert series and hopes you will share this information with your organization.
Sunday, April 23, 3:00 p.m. Anderson and Roe Piano Duo. World of the Piano Series, Armstrong Concert Hall, Shenandoah University. Ticket required.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 28, 29, 30 Mozart’s The Magic Flute, presented by Shenandoah Conservatory singers and orchestra. Ohrstrom-Bryant Theater. Tickets.

Sunday, April 30, 4:00 pm. Music on the Corner Concert Series, First Baptist Church, Washington and Piccadilly Sts., Winchester. The Atlantic Reed Consort, featuring local resident John Romano. Free will offering, reception following the concert.

Emily Snyder, oboe
Brooke Emery, clarinet
Jeremy Koch, saxophone
John Romano, bass clarinet
Eddie Sanders, bassoon

Joseph Ripka

Wednesday, May 10 7:00 p.m. Holtkamp Organ Dedicatory Recital, Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, Arlington, VA. Joseph Ripka (Stonington, VT), Recitalist. Free.

1500 N. Glebe Rd, Arlington, VA 22207. Ph. 703-527-3934. mountolivetumc.com

Monday, June 5, 7:00 p.m. Power Point / Lecture presentation: Lutherland Marking the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Daniel Hannemann, presenter. Featuring photos of many German locations important to the life of Martin Luther. We may even sing a few of his hymns!
Grace Lutheran Church, 26 W. Boscawen St., Winchester. Free.

Martin Luther by Lucas Cranach

June 18-23 Church Music Institute, Shenandoah University, focusing on adult choirs
June 25-30 Church Music Institute, Shenandoah University, focusing on children’s choirs and handbells
Please see following pages for details.
Shenandoah Conservatory
Church Music Institute 2017

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

Adult Choirs – Scott Allen Jarrett

Week 1: June 18-23

- Preparing the Conductor
  - Studying the score
  - On the Podium: Master Classes in Conducting

- Preparing the Choir
  - Voice building for choirs
  - Rehearsal techniques
  - Daily rehearsals

- Accompanying the Choir
  - Adapting accompaniments to the organ
  - Working with instruments

- Exploring the Repertoire
  - Singing the Psalms
  - Symposia on the Fauré Requiem
  - Reading sessions

- Hymn Festival – Sunday evening, June 18
  - Christ was born for this!

- Choral Concert – Friday evening, June 23
  - With a Merry Noyse: Music from the English Coral Tradition

For more information, visit the CMI website at www.su.edu/cmi
or contact Dr. J. Thomas Mitts, Director of CMI, at tmitts@su.edu

Continued…….
Shenandoah Conservatory
Church Music Institute 2017

Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord

Week 2: June 25 – 30

Children’s Choirs – Giovanna Reys-Mir
  • Preparing the Choir
    Warmups and vocal technique for music in different styles
    Rehearsal strategies
    Working with the boy’s changing voice
  • Exploring the Repertoire
    Daily rehearsals
    Reading sessions

Seniors’ Choirs – Lori Horne Pendleton
  • Inspiring and Working with Senior Citizens
  • Providing Musical Opportunities for Seniors
  • Building Community with Seniors

Handbell Choirs – Lori Horne Pendleton
  • Organizing and administering a Handbell Program
  • Preparing the Handbell Choir
    Ringing techniques
    Rehearsal strategies
  • Utilizing Handbells in the Liturgy
    Psalms, responses, hymns
  • Exploring the Repertoire
    Combining handbells with other instruments
    Reading sessions

For more information, visit the CMI website at www.su.edu/cmi
or contact Dr. J. Thomas Mitts, Director of CMI, at tmitts@su.edu
Pipe Organ Encounter (POE) Corner  
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This summer, **July 23-28**, Winchester will be host to our 3rd Pipe Organ Encounter (POE). We expect to have **20 high school students** from all over the U.S., attend an intense week of study through private lessons, workshops/masterclasses and recitals with a highly skilled faculty of artists. Each month, we will give you an update on the progress of this event, as well as opportunities for members to become involved.

To date, the following **faculty and concert artists** have indicated interest in participating - faculty contracts pending.

- Steven Cooksey - SU Professor Emeritus
- Felix Hell - Independent Concert Artist
- Ted Dix - McDaniel College Professor
-Kaori Hongo - DMA, Oberlin Conservatory
-Katelyn Emerson - 2016 National Winner
-Marvin Mills - Well-known D.C. organist
-Julie Vidrick Evans - Chevy Chase Presbyterian
-Thomas Mitts - SU Organ Professor
-Nathaniel Gumbs - Recent WAGO recitalist
-Jonathan Moyer - DMA. Oberlin Conservatory
-Donald Sutherland - Peabody Organ Professor

**Coordinators** - Jeff Alban, Judy Connelly

To offer high level recitals/workshops, by headliner artists, we will have some expenses.

**If you would like to help with a financial donation**, please send to Judy Connelly, Braddock St. UMC, 115 Wolfe St., Winchester, VA 22601.

**Checks** can be made out to WAGO - Winchester POE.

Please take the time to **preview the brochure** on the WAGO website or [https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/poe/](https://www.agohq.org/education/poe/poe/) and **decide how you would like to help** with this event.
Church organist suspended after playing “Stayin’ Alive” at Easter Sunday service

Chicago, IL – Clear evidence has emerged of church organist Mr. Ross Stanhope having played a full chorus of the BeeGees classic “Stayin’ Alive” in between verses of a hymn at a recent Easter Sunday service.

From the Head Office of the Royal College of Organists, Bishop George Piper, said this at a press conference held on Tuesday:

“For the last 16 years organist Mr. Ross Stanhope has provided spiritually uplifting music to worshippers at St Albans Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois. It is therefore with great sadness that I inform you that he has been suspended pending further investigation and advice. There is now clear evidence that tends to prove he has strayed from musical orthodoxy by playing a short organ flourish of ‘Stayin’ Alive’ in the middle of one of the Easter hymns at a recent service”

Bishop Piper went on to show a youtube clip of the incident and explain how the musical interlude was not only a breach of Mr. Stanhope’s contract of employment but against all known policies and procedures for inserting flourishes between hymnal verses. He also outlined his own theological concern with the choice of the song, and referred to the Apostles’ Creed in that Jesus did not ‘stay alive’ but was crucified, died and was buried before rising again.

This is not the first time that Mr. Stanhope has been at the center of an unholy row, having previously been censured for repeatedly playing “Jesus paid it all” during the offertory hymn, and most famously reprimanded for having played “Roll out the Barrel” at the funeral of a well-known local bar owner.

Bishop Piper concluded the press conference by saying: “While our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Stanhope and his family during this difficult time, we are also supporting those congregation members who have been deeply affected by this incident.” Although contacted, Mr. Stanhope has declined to comment on the event.

-Shared by Frances Lapp Averitt