

# PEDALS, PIPES, & PIZZA HANDBOOK



Revised by the  
**COMMITTEE ON THE NEW ORGANIST**  
**2008**

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## WHAT IS A PEDALS, PIPES, & PIZZA?

A Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza (PPP) event is a low-cost, partial day program designed to give children and youth a brief introduction to the pipe organ and its music. The event is held at a church, auditorium, or other space housing a pipe organ. It is desirable for the featured organ to have a console visible to the attendees.

While this program can focus on one organ, do not hesitate to include several to show different designs of instruments. Many PPP coordinators have found it instructive to introduce the organ by performing an organ demonstration piece such as *Rex: The King of Instruments* for organist and narrator. Other possibilities are found in the resource section on pages 12 and 13. In addition, be sure to have plenty of other volunteers and players available for the event.

Although the organ is the main focus of a PPP, time for social interaction among the attendees and the program coordinators and volunteers is strongly encouraged. This will be especially important during the “pizza” portion of the event.

Additional helpful hints and suggestions are provided in this booklet as well as examples of the materials needed to conduct successful PPP.

# PLANNING GUIDES

## POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES TO SCHEDULE AT YOUR PEDALS, PIPES, & PIZZA

### I. Activities Away from the Organ:

- show video: *The Organist, a Total Musician* (see resources)
- show video: *Pulling Out All the Stops* (see resources)

### II. Activities at the Organ:

\*During the demonstration, it may be helpful to have one person to demonstrate and play each organ and a second person to interact and talk with the students. *Be sure to leave enough time for questions before, during, and after the various demonstrations.*

- (1) ● demonstrate differences between organ and piano with one student at the organ and the other at the piano. Play one note with little pressure, then with great pressure. Hold one note a long time on each instrument.
- (2) ● demonstrate loudest, softest, highest and lowest sounds on the organ. (More possibilities than any other single instrument!) Be sure to demonstrate each basic tone color with short excerpts incorporating soft and loud; fast and slow.
- (3) ● show pictures or describe largest and smallest organ pipes. Give old organ pipe to each student if possible. (Be sure they play. Frequently organ builders or repair people are willing to donate pipes no longer in use.)
- (4) ● demonstrate the swell box. (Students “ah” at a steady rate with hand over mouth - take away gradually.) Then play on full swell, open and gradually close, then on a soft stop, open and slowly closed, then open.
- (5) ● play a passage going from ppp to fff to ppp, using both stop additions/subtractions and swell pedal.
- (6) ● demonstrate pedals. Play pedal solo piece, such as the melody of *Three Blind Mice*, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, or *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. Consider playing a piece suitable to the age group present.
- (7) ● demonstrate need for stops (why not called “go’s”) by playing with much emotion on a silent manual.
- (8) ● secretly turn off organ motor, pull stops, and play. The lack of sound emphasizes the fact that the organ is a wind instrument.
- (9) ● demonstrate pistons, couplers, etc., possibly with a brief demonstration of the organist trying to make many stop changes by hand in a short amount of time. Hopefully, this will be amusing.

- (10) ● show students pipes inside the organ case. Point out different shapes, materials, sizes of pipes, and have organist play while the students are in the organ case.
- (11) ● show the organ blower. Turn it on and off, observing the opening of the reservoirs.
- (12) ● while using many stops, play and release large chords with rests between them; observe the top of the reservoirs adjusting to the winding needs. Contrast with very small registrations and smooth, two-part playing.
- (13) ● perform an organ demonstration piece like *Rex: The King of Instruments* (see resources for additional options.)
- (14) ● let each student play a piano piece on the organ. Register for them, but ask them for ideas as well!

**Following the organ demonstrations, plan for all to enjoy pizza and soft drinks. Be sure to have as many Guild members present as possible to interact with the students. Have AGO members share stories of how they came to study the organ and its importance in their lives.**

## **HAND-OUTS (STUDENT PACKETS) COULD INCLUDE:**

- an organ pipe to take home.
- pictures of various organs and organ consoles.
- pictures of an organ score, showing three staves, registration markings, etc.; elements different from a piano score.
- list of local organ teachers who will give lessons if piano study is continued. (Be certain to include their contact information.)
- list of POE programs to be given across the country the next summer.
- *A Young Person's Guide to the Pipe Organ* by Soderlund (See resources)
- list of local musical programs of interest.
- schedule of the day for this PPP.

### **OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS TO CONSIDER:**

Some chapters create a scholarship fund for a series of introductory lessons for those students who indicate an interest. (Please remember that the purpose is as much to interest future *listeners* of the organ as getting some of them to possibly study the organ.) One way to raise funds is to present organ recitals, i.e. Bach's birthday, etc.

Some chapters underwrite the complete cost of the PPP, while others charge a minimal fee to cover event materials.

Timely and attractive publicity is highly important. Letters should be sent to parents of the students. (See sample letter and ad in this booklet). The parents can also be invited to attend the PPP.

**BEST WISHES FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL  
PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA!**



**American Guild of Organists  
Yellowstone Chapter**

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**Press Release**  
January, 2006  
For immediate release

**PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA**

On Saturday, January 24, pianists, ages 11-16, will meet at the First United Methodist Church to prepare to *meet the pipe organ*. Following an introductory program, they will travel to see, hear, and play pipe organs in Second Baptist, Emmanuel Lutheran, and St. John's Catholic churches in the city. The Yellowstone chapter of the *American Guild of Organists* is sponsoring this program.

Participants will meet at 8:30 am to see video presentations, and to hear introductory remarks before visiting the churches, where they will be taken inside the organs, and will have an opportunity to play each organ. Pizza will be served at mid-day. The program will end at 3:30 at the First United Methodist Church.

The *Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza* is a program designed to introduce youth to the pipe organ. Any piano student, ages 11–16, who would like to take part in these activities is invited to call Julianne Waters at 908.765.0012.

## **PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA**

Fox Valley Chapter, American Guild of Organists  
First United Methodist Church  
January 17, 2006

10:00 am	Registration and refreshments (Keep names/addresses for mailing list)	John Gill
10:15 am	Video: <i>The Organist, a Total Musician</i>	
10:45 am	Walk to St. James Church	
11:15 am	<i>Rex, King of Instruments</i>	David Cutup, Jan Smith
11:30 am	Presenting the St. James Moller	Jane Mordent
Noon	<b>PIZZA</b>	
1:00 pm	Exploring/playing the St. James Moller	Sam Kidd
2:00 pm	Walk to First United Methodist Church	
2:15 pm	Video: <i>Close Encounters</i>	
2:30 pm	Wrap-up, questions, adjourn.	

**Sample program for three organs**

## **PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA**

Yellowstone Chapter, American Guild of Organists  
January 17, 2006

8:30 am	First English Lutheran Church 1243 N. 31st St. Registration (\$5) WELCOME	Barbara J. Gulick
8:45	Video: <i>Pulling Out All the Stops</i>	
9:45	"Pipe Show"	Kent Brocklebank
10:15	Presenting the Zimmer organ	Arie Lohof
10:30	Exploring the Zimmer organ	
11:00	Depart for First United Methodist Church 4th Ave. N. And Broadway	
11:15	Presenting the Schantz organ	Nancy Peterson
12:00 pm	Walk to First Congregational United Church of Christ 310 N. 27th	
12:15	<b>PIZZA</b>	
1:00	Presenting the Holtkamp organ	Barbara Dobesh
1:15	Exploring the Holtkamp organ	
1:45	Depart for American Lutheran Church 5 Lewis Ave.	
2:00	Presenting the Reuter organ	Barbara J. Gulick
2:15	Exploring the Reuter organ	
2:45	Video: <i>Close Encounters</i>	
3:00	Wrap-up and Questions	
3:30	THE END	



## **Sample letter to piano teachers**

(Date)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

The \_\_\_\_\_ chapter of the American Guild of Organists is presenting a program to introduce young people to the organ, called *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza*. As a leading piano teacher in the community, we hope that you will be interested in encouraging some of your piano students to attend.

We will explain and demonstrate the pipe organ. The students will see the inside of an organ, and to play a piano piece on it. The principal purpose of the day is to help students learn about the pipe organ and how it functions. We are not primarily interested in recruiting students for immediate organ study. If there happen to be students who would like to start organ study, and who are advanced enough in their piano study to start lessons on the organ, we would *strongly recommend* that they continue piano study while studying the organ.

The *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza* event will be held at (location) on (date), and will last from 10:00am until 1:00pm. (Adjust time as appropriate) If you have students whom you feel would be interested in attending this introduction to the organ, please send their names, addresses, and telephone numbers to \_\_\_\_\_, and the students and their parents will be contacted.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Do not hesitate to call for any additional information you may need. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,  
name  
address  
telephone number

**Sample letter to parents (pre-PPP)**

(Date)

Mr. and Mrs. John Parent  
100 E. Main St.  
Mapleton, AZ 09876

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Parent:

I am Marilyn Yodel, organist of the Independent Presbyterian Church of Mapleton. The Mapleton chapter of the American Guild of Organists is holding a *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza* program to introduce pianists, ages 11-16, to the pipe organ.

Your daughter Rebecca was recommended for this program by John Playel, her piano teacher. We will be thrilled to have Rebecca as part of the group.

The program will start at \_\_\_\_\_. Rebecca should bring a piece of piano music which she will be asked to play on the organ. You both are cordially invited to attend this event; however, if you are unable join us, you may pick Rebecca up at the church at \_\_\_\_\_. Dress for this event will be informal.

We will look forward to having Rebecca with us.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Yodel  
Coordinator, Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza  
Address  
Telephone  
E-mail

**\*A publicity flyer and registration form should\*  
\*be included with this letter\***

**Sample letter to parents (post-PPP)**

(Date)

Mr. and Mrs. John Parent  
100 E. Main St.  
Mapleton, AZ 09876

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Parent:

As the coordinator of the Mapleton AGO Chapter Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza and on behalf of the entire Mapleton Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, I would like to thank you for bringing your son/daughter to our event last Saturday. Outreach to young people is one of the most important areas on which the AGO focuses. I am so glad we were able to have your son/daughter included in this outreach effort.

One of the primary goals of a *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza* is to generate interest in the pipe organ at an early age. If your son/daughter had a positive experience and would possibly like to continue study in organ or piano, the AGO would be happy to know that information and we would gladly help you find an organ or piano instructor. We will also send you information on AGO membership for your son/daughter and any information on other *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza* events, or other events geared toward young people. Please feel free to share any suggestions you or your child might have for improving or expanding potential future offerings of this same nature. Any of this information can be mailed or e-mailed to the addresses below, or feel free to give me a call.

Thank you again for taking interest in the AGO *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza* program and if we can help you in any way, do not hesitate to contact us.

All the best,  
Marilyn Yodel  
Coordinator, *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza*  
Address  
Phone  
E-mail

**Sample letter to students (post-PPP)**

(Date)

Dear \_\_,

Thank you so much for attending the *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza* event sponsored by the Mapleton Chapter AGO last Saturday. I hope you had a fun and enjoyable time and were able to make some new friends! Please know that even if you are not a member of the American Guild of Organists, you are always more than welcome at our monthly chapter meetings, where we have exciting recitals and workshops. You can see the upcoming schedule of chapter events on our chapter website, [www.mapletonago.org](http://www.mapletonago.org).

I have included a brochure for membership in the American Guild of Organists. You qualify for student membership, which includes a subscription to *The American Organist* magazine. You can find out about other events for young organists (Pipe Organ Encounters) and other fun facts and activities. If you have any questions, you or your parents can feel free to contact me at anytime.

Thanks again for participating and I hope to see you again at an AGO event!

All the best,

Marilyn Yodel  
Coordinator, *Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza*  
Address  
Phone  
E-mail

**\*This letter may be adjusted based on the age of the student to whom you are writing.\*\***

# PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA

Yellowstone Chapter AGO  
Registration Form  
January 17, 2006

NAME OF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ GENDER M\_\_\_\_ F\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF YEARS OF PIANO STUDY \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT(s) NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PIANO TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ FEE PAID \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**CREATE A LIST OF AREA ORGAN TEACHERS, INCLUDING NAMES, ADDRESSES, AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS. PLACE THEM ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**

# **Post-PPP Essentials**

Following the PPP, it is important to build upon the enthusiasm and excitement of the event to motivate and recruit the next generation of organists. Carefully consider the following ideas; include as many as possible in your chapter's future planning goals. There is only one item on this list; however, it is probably the most important item of this booklet for the success of the PPP program, other AGO programs, and growth of your own AGO Chapter.

1. Maintain a list of all PPP attendees, including name, address, and phone number. This list can be used for:
  - Sending of post-PPP letter to parents and students (see p. 11)
  - POE Recruitment. You can have brochures for the upcoming summer POE's available for the students. These can be obtained by contacting The AGO National Office.
  - Involvement in chapter events
  - Organ Crawls
  - Recitals by young organists
  - Student chapter membership
  - Student organ scholarship information. While AGO national offers student scholarships for POE's, your chapter may want to consider establishing a scholarship fund for young organists in order that may attend POE's, receive organ lessons, or attend other educational music events.

Your chapter may want to consider a mentoring program for young organists. One of the chapter members can be assigned to a student to help guide them through AGO programs, helpful reminder phone calls before chapter events, or offer transportation to AGO events.

# RESOURCES

## MUSIC:

**A Suite for Mother Goose** by George Akerley, for organ and narrator.

Hinshaw Music

Hindon Music

P.O. Box 470

Chapel Hill, NC 27514

HPO3009 Two copies are required for performance.

This delightful, six-movement composition was awarded the 2004 Holtkamp-AGO Award in Organ Composition.

**Rex: The King of Instruments** by Daniel Burton, for organ and narrator.

Morning Star Music Publishers

2117 59th St.

St. Louis, MO 63110-2800

MSM 10-938 Two copies are required for performance.

This is an upbeat 9-minute introduction to the pipe organ, scored for organ and rap narrator! Designed to attract and hold the attention of young people, the fast-moving dialogue is an informative delight for all ages, and serves well as both an entertaining concert piece and/or as an organ demonstration work. Adjustments are included for 2-3-or 4 manual instruments.

**Scenes of Childhood** by John Leavitt, for organ and narrator.

Warner Bros. Publications Inc.

15800 NW 48th Ave.

Miami, FL 33014

Only one copy is needed for performance

This is a set of organ sketches based on selected poems from Robert Louis Stevenson's: *A Child's Garden of Verses*. These pieces are to be performed with a narrator reading the poem before each organ sketch.

**A wide variety of Organ Demonstrators for various age groups are available from Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc., 8510 Triad Drive, Colfax, NC 27235. In addition, the firm handles various educational tools about the organ for various age levels.**

## DVD's:

**Pulling Out All The Stops: The Pipe Organ in America**

Available through AGO headquarters.

This video features every kind of organ - the old, the new - the sacred, the secular - mechanical action, electric action. This video is about 85 minutes long, but a natural break occurs at c.55 minutes.

(RESOURCES, CONTINUED)

### **Close Encounters**

Available through AGO headquarters.

This 9 minute video describes a POE (Pipe Organ Encounter). It is intended for Guild chapters who might be interested in hosting such an event. It could encourage those attending a PPP to want to attend a POE.

### **Booklet:**

**A Young Person's Guide to the Pipe Organ** by Sandra Soderlund, with drawings by Catherine Fischer. Available through AGO headquarters, it is free to PPP groups. Have one copy for each student.

A delightful introduction to the pipe organ for young people of any age. This book of cartoons gives a brief history of the instrument and cleverly illustrates types of action, varieties of pipes, divisions of the organ, organ builders, players, and composers. There is also a glossary of terms and a bibliography of sources for more information.