

December 2003 / January 2004

Double Pen

A Publication of
the New York City Chapter of
the American Guild of Organists

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The New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was established 9 October 1950 when it was made independent of the former Headquarters Chapter, tracing its history to the founding of the AGO in 1896. With more than 550 members, it is one of the largest Chapters in the Guild.

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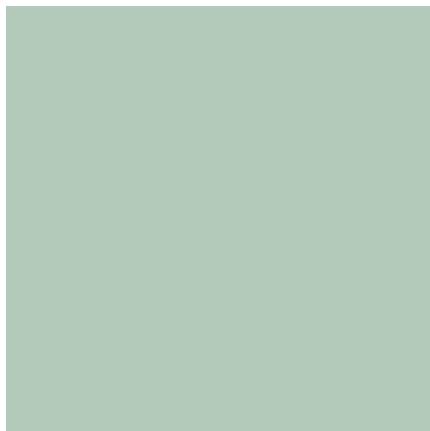
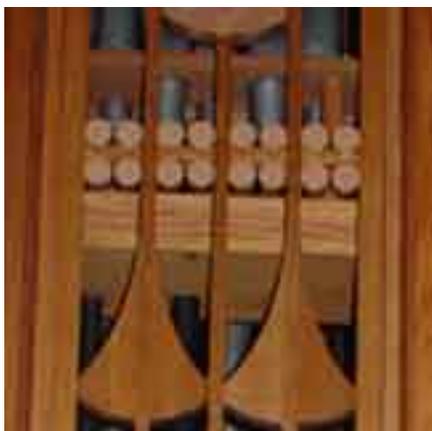
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The First Word

Dear AGO members,

One of my most favorite holiday texts was written by Helen Keller. I think it represents the sentiment of this season.

“Christmas is the harvest time of love. Souls are drawn to other souls. All that we have read and thought and hoped comes to fruition at his happy time. Our spirits are astir. We feel within us a strong desire to serve. A strange, subtle force, a new kindness, animates man and child. A new spirit is growing in us. No longer are we content to relieve pain, to sweeten sorrow, to give the crust of charity. We dare to give friendship, service, the equal loaf of bread, and love.”

This has been a most successful year for our New York City AGO chapter. We have great numbers...numbers of members, money in the bank, a giving and working Board, excellent programs and a fine collegial spirit within the membership. My sincerest thanks to one and all who have made the chapter so special and strong with their good work and good will. My best wishes to each of you as we enter this season of the church year. May your music making be especially satisfying to all those who will hear.

Peace and blessings,



Stephen Hamilton, Dean

Report from the Nominating Committee

Having not allowed any grass to grow under their collective feet, the Chapter Nominating Committee by way of its chairperson, Mark Peterson, and on behalf of the members of the committee, Paul R. Olson and Mollie Nichols, presented to the Executive Board at its recent meeting the following slate of nominees for Officers and Members at Large for election in 2004.

For the Executive Board, the following have agreed to have their names put forth for election to the following positions:

Christopher Creaghan,
for Dean, two year term

Nicholas White,
for Sub Dean, two year term

Elizabeth Wong,
for Secretary, two year term

F. Anthony Thurman,
for Treasurer, two year term

Steven E. Lawson,
for Registrar, two year term

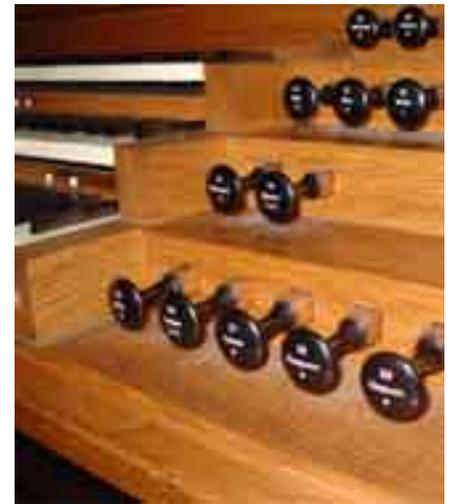
Claudia Dumschat,
William Enriken,
for Auditor, two year term

David Brown,
Sheldon Eldridge,
Jim Hagen,
Douglas Keilitz,
Jennifer Pascual,
Christopher Berry,
for Members at Large,
Class of 2008, four year term

Additional nominations may be made by petition of at least ten voting members in good standing and should be received by the chapter secretary, Paul Olson, no later than 10 January 2004.

In separate but related news, the Nominating Committee reports that Jeffrey Lake has agreed to fill an open position in the Class of 2006 among the Members at Large of the Chapter Executive Board.

The Executive Board extends its thanks to the Nominating Committee for their diligent work, which is so important to ensure the continuity of our Chapter leadership.



	Meredith Elaine Baker MA, FAGO
AGO District Convener for Metropolitan New York and Europe	
Most Holy Trinity Chapel USMA at West Point	
http://www.usma.edu/Chaplain/mht/	
Conductor of the Long Island Choral Society since 1979	
http://www.lics.org	

From the Editor

I recently ran the New York City Marathon.

For those who know me, you know how unlikely is that scenario. What I mean is, I took advantage of a Sunday afternoon full of the organic opportunities afforded in Manhattan. The 9th of November found me settling into a pew at the Church of St Ignatius Loyola for some spirited playing of the first half of the mass from Nicolas de Grigny's *Livre d'Orgue*, with John Grew at the keys of the magnificent Mander. Men of the choir alternated chanted portions of the ordinary from the sanctuary while Mr. Grew held forth from the gallery, with the large screen to the right of the singers giving us an excellent view of the organist at work thanks to the technology of camera and video projector.

The Mander, which to my ears speaks French with a very refined British accent, nevertheless was thoroughly put through its paces as we heard the Kyrie and Gloria *in alternatim* followed by the Offertoire. Mr. Grew seemed to be enjoying his performing as much as the audience enjoyed listening. This included a small child, who with his mother was sitting near me. He watched in rapt attention the image on the screen, alternately turning to look at the organ, then back to the chorus of singing gentlemen, occasionally whispering a question to his mother, always respectful of the place and music, and he wasn't a day over

six years of age. "Train up child", as the proverb says!

How I wish I had the opportunity to hear the second half of the program, works of Canadian composers, but I had to be off on the second leg of my marathon. A run—okay, I admit, it was a quick walk—over to the Church of the Holy Trinity (Episcopal), I was just in time to hear Dean Stephen Hamilton play his contribution to a Mannes College of Music program, *The Birth of Romanticism*, which included a stunning and vigorous performance of the Mozart *Andante* for Organ, K.616 on the 1987 Rieger. Heard on just a few flutes, the bright and liquid sound and solid playing clearly captivated the audience. The concert concluded with the Mozart Trio in E-flat ("Kegelstatt"), and I was off on the next leg of my adventure.

With a nosh and drink as fortification, and a bit more along the lines of a stroll than a jog, I made my way to the Church of the Heavenly Rest to participate in the "live" audience for Justin Bischof's recording of a variety of improvisations for future release on compact disk. Being on my best behavior, and too tired to even think of it until after the session was completed, none of the coughs or other noises you might hear, should you purchase the CD, are from me. In fact, the only 'noise' you'll hear is Dr. Bischof, the 2000 winner of the AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation, holding forth, inventing and

reinventing music—the improvisation in baroque style was particularly noteworthy—on the distinctive Austin organ as later repaired, revised and completed after a devastating fire.

A victory lap around the park and down to Penn Station and home, and my marathon was complete.

In this season of giving, why not give yourself something from the new AGO educational publications? The Masterclass Series, with Frederick Swann in the recent, third volume, is a welcome addition to those by Marie-Claire Alain and the late Catharine Crozier: any or all of which will augment your library and help to set and meet resolutions for the new year. *SDG!*

David Lloyd ben Yaacov Yehuda Klepper

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Eddie Layton, Longtime Yankees Organist, Retires?

A resolution on behalf of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists to congratulate Eddie Layton on his recently announced retirement as the organist for the New York Yankees was passed unanimously at the Executive Board meeting in November.

Layton, a popular fixture at home games of the Yankees, one of two professional baseball teams in the City, has been the official organist for the team for more than 30 years. Now 76 years of age, Layton began his public performing career in the



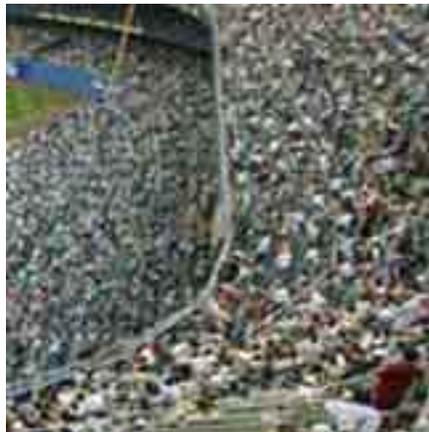
mid-1950s with regular appearances around mid-town Manhattan.

Like many organists, his hobby is model trains. Layton also owns a small, if twenty-six feet of length is small, tugboat in Westchester, where he spends much of his time when not playing for games at Yan-

kee Stadium, a large sporting facility which can be found in The Bronx.

But wait! Captain Eddie, as he is known, may not be retiring after all. George Steinbrenner, one of the team executives, has apparently been trying to lure Layton back to his glass-enclosed booth at the stadium for yet another season, and more seasons to come.

An item in a recent newspaper tells of how Eddie is contemplating his unretirement. As he said to Dennis Duggan, "After all, if Michael Jordan can retire and come back and play basketball, why can't I reconsider and come back and play the organ?"



So it seems that the resolution will have to be put on hold at least for the time being. An ad for the job will likely not appear in TAO anytime soon. Still, there's time to work up your stadium technique, have spikes added to your Organmasters, and draw up plans for your new stadium tracker-action organ, just to be prepared.

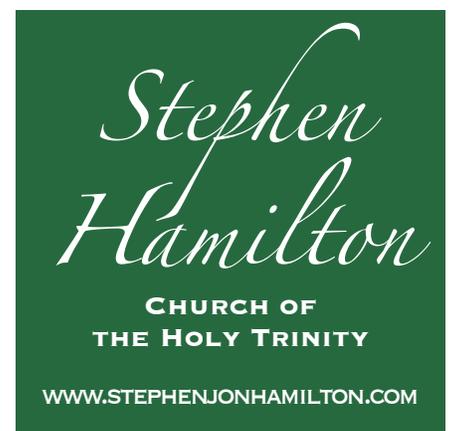
Minister of Music: St. John's Episcopal Church in downtown Stamford, Connecticut is accepting applications for a full-time organist/choir director, to begin in 2004 as soon as is suitable for the winning candidate.

This individual creates a worshipful environment in sacred services and concerts, participates in parish administration, recruits and conducts a choir of accomplished volunteers led by paid professionals, introduces diverse music styles for parishioners of all ages, and is able to make use of the full range of this 116-rank organ. St. John's is a diverse congregation of about 150 worshipping each Sunday in two morning services.

The successful candidate should demonstrate a breadth of imagination to explore new and creative approaches to the musical expression of religious faith for all members of the community, regardless of age and education; be able to articulate a faith commitment; have had at least three years of experience with the Episcopal service, preferably as Music Director with a proven record of success in previous positions; be able to organize and direct a multi-cultural, musically diverse childrens, adult and possibly youth choir; plan and direct a full season of musical performances including at least four major choral works with orchestral accompaniment within or outside of the Sunday morning service; have earned at least a Bachelor's degree. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

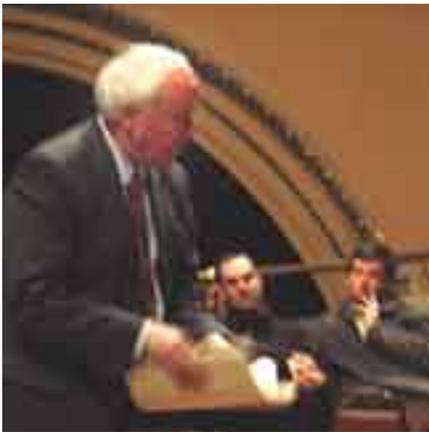
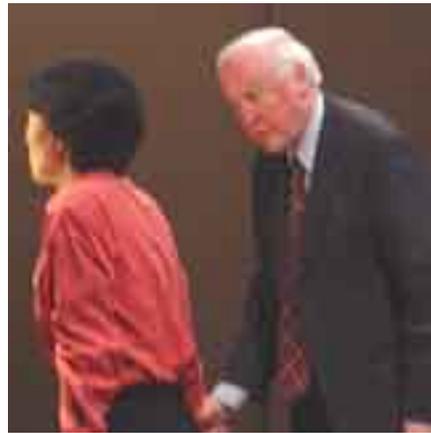
Send cover letter and resume to:

Music Search
St. John's Episcopal Church
628 Main Street
Stamford CT 06901



Scenes from a Masterclass with John Grew

Performing attendees included, middle top to bottom, Izumi Fujimori, Andrew Henderson, Brian Harlow, and Christopher Creaghan. Thanks to host musicians, Kent Tritle and Mr. Henderson, and the Church of St Ignatius Loyola.



News & Notes of Chapter Members & Friends

This fall, Gregory D'Agostino performed recitals at festivals in the Czech Republic and also in the southern U.S., and participated in a Rorem 80th Birthday Concert at Merkin Hall. On two Tuesdays in May 2004, the 4th & 18th, he will perform the Complete Works for Organ of Ned Rorem at The Riverside Church. Dr. D'Agostino's most recent CD release—Milton Babbitt's *Manifold Music*, which he premiered at the AGO 1996 Centennial Convention—is available on the Bridge label, BRIDGE 9135.

We welcome the following new members to our Chapter:

Matthew Anderson (Metro NJ)
Paula Berardinelli
Christopher J. Berry
Patricia Brady-Danzig
Tim Brumfield
Kevin Glaser
Roderick B. Gorby
Lonedra Jaoutakene
William Kring
Olaf Post
Alleyne Toppin
Christopher M. Wells
(Westchester)
Stacie Yao (Northern NJ)

Member Shayne Doty is featured on a compact disk recording of the recently installed von Beckerath organ (III/32) in the music hall at "Edgewood," the 1910 residence of famed architect Ehrick Rossiter, and now home to Stephen J. Ketterer. The eclectic program runs from Marchand to Duruflé, and includes Bach, Franck, Saint-Saëns and Vierne. For informa-

tion, write to Edgewood Records, 14 Old North Road, Washington CT 06793. Visit <http://www.edgewoodrecords.com/>



Fourteen. That's how many concerts and recitals are listed in the calendar section at www.nycago.org on the 14th of December, and even that source includes only a few of the familiar weekly offerings at such places as St Mary the Virgin, St Thomas Fifth Avenue, St Patrick Cathedral, St John the Divine Cathedral, St Bartholomew, Holy Trinity Lutheran, to mention a half dozen off the top of my head. There will no doubt be additions to the list between now and the middle of the month, but let's just mention a few of the exceptional opportunities.

Church of the Transfiguration (Little Church around the Corner) present Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at 3.00 PM under Richard Olson's direction and Claudia Dumschat's conduction. 212-684-4174 for reservations.

Also at 3.00 PM and further downtown, Trinity Church Choir and Rebel Baroque Orchestra, under the baton of Owen Burdick, present in its

in its entirety, "Messiah," with live broadcast on 96.3 FM WQXR. 212-279-4200 or www.ticketscentral.com.

If you're in the mood for Advent carols, join the St Vincent Ferrer Chorale with Mark Bani, also at 3.00 PM, for works by Bach, Wood, Mathias and Rutter. 212-744-2080.

For something a bit different, at 4.00 PM, consider a "Journey to Bethlehem" at Church of St Ignatius Loyola, with the choirs and orchestra led by Kent Tritle and Aaron Smith in music of Victoria, Lauridsen, Pinkham, Luboff, Regney, and the Nigerian work, *Betelehemu*, plus performances by singer/songwriter Roger Gilson. 212-288-2520 or www.stignatiusloyola.com.

For something a little more different than that, there's some Jazzy Christmas at the Church of the Holy Trinity on the upper east side, at 4.00 PM, with the William Buthod Trio. 212-289-4100 x210.

Wolcum Yule! Over on the upper (upper, upper) west side at 4.00 PM you can enjoy the Anonymous 4 and harpist Andrew Lawrence-King present Celtic and British songs and carols. Part of the acclaimed Music Before 1800 series at Corpus Christi Church, there will even be exotic (dare one say, historical?) songs of the 20th century. 212-666-0675.

Further up, up, up, up the upper west side (keep going, you're almost there), in Irvington-on-Hudson, member and chapter treasurer F. Anthony Thurman conducts a 4.00 PM program of carols by candle-

News & Notes continued

light, playing the church's recently-installed Klais pipe organ. 914-591-8124 or www.irvingtonpresbychurch.org.

Not quite so far up the west side at 5.00 PM the Bach Vespers Series at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church features Bach's *Magnificat*, and *Fuga sopra il Magnificat*, along with the Ec-card *Uebers Gebirg Maria geht*. 212-877-6815 or www.holytrinitynyc.org.

St Thomas Fifth Avenue offers Britten's *A Ceremony of Carols* as part of Evensong at 4.00 PM. One could go on and on in this city of so many richly rewarding musical opportunities from week to week, but especially in this great season of giving.



14th Advent-Christmas Concert, featuring The Treasure-House Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, New York Metropolitan Opera Dramatic Soprano Janet Hopkins, Organist Lana Kollath, and Professional Soloists under the direction of Mr. Joseph J. Nigro. Performing Camille Saint-Saën's Christmas Oratorio. Also a Festival of Carols. Performance Venues: Friday, 5 Dec, 7:30pm, Holy Cross Church, 600 Soundview Avenue, Bronx; Saturday, 6 Dec, 7:30 pm, St. Bernard Church, 51 Prospect Street, White Plains; Sunday, 7 Dec, 7:00 pm, Our Lady of Loretto Catholic Church, 24 Fair Street, Cold Spring. Directions or information: 914-318-3268 www.treasurehousemusic.com



Executive Board News

Among the matters mentioned at the November meeting of the Executive Board was some very good news related to the Pipe Organ Encounter in July and the Centennial Millennium Fund (CMF). Thanks to many generous donations in support of the POE, funds remaining after bills were paid were sufficient to bring the CMF to within one thousand dollars of its goal of \$100,000.

When the CMF reaches or exceeds this figure, the interest earned may be used toward Chapter functions at the discretion of the Executive Board. Depending on the movement of the economy, this can mean a significant boost in funding Chapter activities toward professional development, education or performance, among many options.

This good news is thanks in no small part to the excellent leadership of our Chapter officers and board, especially Tony Thurman's excellent work as treasurer, and Stephen Hamilton's leadership as Dean, as well as all the members of the Executive Board whose expertise in many fields outside of the organ and sacred music continues to make such a strong impact on the future of the Guild and especially the New York City Chapter.

A solid foundation now will permit the Executive Board to plan well into the future. Some

of the projects under consideration and mentioned at the meeting, with Regional Councillor Allison Evans Henry and AGO Executive Director James E. Thomashower in attendance, is another POE, perhaps in 2005, and the hosting of a regional convention in 2007. What will you do in support of these efforts for the future of the pipe organ? Your Chapter leadership will look to you, dear member, to share your expertise in and out of music-making. The future is bright, with you in it.





Where In the World is Clarabella Van De Echo?

Last month our girl found why her "partial view" seats at Heavenly Rest were free: she was in the chamber! This month her camera was stuck on "zoom;" but where was she? First three correct answers to doubleopen@optonline.net get a mention next issue.



Get Out the Word! New "cyber" NYC Chapter newsletter has formally made its debut

Advertise your concert, recital, institution, studio or other services to more than 550 of your colleagues, plus the unknown numbers who will download the cyberletter from the Chapter website. Now, your advertisement can have the added attraction of color, including photographs in full, glorious color.

Advertising rates include creation of the advertisement to your basic design by our graphic artists. Any artwork must be submitted electronically (PDF, JPG, TIF) over the internet or on standard floppy disk or CD. Any artwork submitted in printed form requires scanning, the fee for which will be quoted based upon individual circumstance as well as any other special requests; all artwork submitted in printed form is non-returnable, and is considered to be consumed in the production process. Every effort will be made to keep the running page number out of advertising but this cannot be guaranteed. If an ad exceeds specified size, it may be reduced to fit.

All advertisements must be in final form by the 20th of the month preceding publication.

To place an advertisement, please contact Nicholas White, at advertising@nycago.org or at 212 222 2700.

Advertisement sizes are based on a square with dimensions of 2-1/4" by 2-1/4" (5.0625 square inches). Advertisement sizes larger than a single square will incorporate the 2-1/4" by 1/4" 'white space' that would ordinarily separate those squares.

Full page
(7-1/4" by 9-3/4") is \$250.00

2/3 page
(4-3/4" by 9-3/4") is \$175.00

1/3 page
(4-3/4" by 4-3/4" -or-
2-1/4" by 9-3/4") is \$100.00

1/6 page
(4-3/4" by 2-1/4" -or-
2-1/4" by 4-3/4") is \$60.00

Personal Listing
(2-1/4" by 2-1/4") is \$10.00 per issue, or \$45.00 for the duration of the membership year; up to nine (9) lines of information, font selection made by our graphic artists unless specified and supplied by the advertiser. A personal listing may include professional information but may not advertise a product, service or event. Several examples out of a multitude of options can be seen throughout this issue.

Publisher and Editor reserve sole discretion to accept copy or to reject any and all advertising information and/or copy and/or photographs which they determine to not advance the mission and message of the New York City Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Next issue is February 2004; items due 15 January 2004.

POE 2003: Final Words

Thanks to the inspirational idea of the editor, I have assembled the following student testimonials from our POE last summer. I would like to say what a privilege it was to lead this noble and tangible effort, an effort that, as you can see below, will have positive repercussions for years to come. I only hope that, in the future, I will continue to be allowed to share my energy and vision for the organ. Thank you all for your support.

Thank you,
Gregory D'Agostino
POE Director



Thank you very much for the wonderful learning experience I had with the NYC POE. I especially enjoyed the opportunity to be taught by some of the greatest organists. Being able to practice and perform on those great organs made this an unforgettable experience.

Buddy Scott



I had a great time at the POE! The different perspectives that I got from the or-



ganists really helped my organ playing. Since then, I am playing the Toccata & Fugue in d, a Reger Chorale prelude, and a Buxtehude Chorale. I got a lot from the masterclasses and especially the one-on-one teaching.

Jim Hopkins



Thank you so much for putting together the program and for allowing me the opportunity to attend considering my age. I would like you to know that I have memorized the Toccata from Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor. Your excellent tips about memorization were very helpful. I am planning to continue my organ studies, and feel that I have benefited greatly from the POE. Thank you



again for all of your hard work and effort.

Roy Feminella



First, I'd like to thank you for such a wonderful week. I had a fantastic time in New York, and learned so much. Your masterclasses were interesting and informative and your performance of the Widor

piece at the faculty organ recital was inspirational. I plan on learning the piece myself.

Olivia Hauck



Thanks again for all your help during that week and your insight on the different aspects of the organ. Hope to see you next year.

Cory Westby



Thank you so much for making the NYC POE possible. I know you put a lot of trouble and time into it, so I hope it was as worthwhile for you as it was for us. Although some of the workshops were over my head, I found them interesting, and the teachers had obviously put a lot of work into them. I am eager to continue my studies.

Rosie Prever



I had an excellent time at the POE. I learned some new techniques for my hymn playing, and now I'm starting to learn a piece of organ repertoire - Deuxieme Suite de Noels by Claude Balbastre. Thank you for a wonderful week.

Michael Albert



^
I just wanted to say thank you for everything that you have done for me this week. I am also sorry that I didn't get the chance to say good-bye when I left Riverside. I hope that we stay in touch!

Robert Stoop

^
The POE was an experience that will stay with me for very long time. The knowledge that I received will help me reach that next step in my musical development. I was able to start many wonderful friendships that I truly believe will last for many years. I am thankful for the many wonderful instructors and a director that held everything together and made the week in New York run smoothly.

Christopher Allen

^
The NYCPOE was a blast!! You could tell that a lot of work was put into it, and in turn, the students OBVIOUSLY learned a lot of organ and music, even if they were beginners. I hope that there will be another NYCPOE not too long from now!

Patrick Kreeger

^
I have thought of the trip to New York often over the last few months, and I know that it was an amazing experience for me and for everyone else there. It was also great to have different teachers, as I have had the same teacher since I was 5 years old. Dr.



D'Agostino and Dr. Maki taught me very different ways of looking at the pieces I was playing, and it was great to have you two help me. I was encouraged to try new things in my organ playing, and it was a lot of fun to do that.

I made many new friends there, and I could talk about organ with them, something I've never been able to do before! Being around so many other organists also inspired me!

I have been working hard on new pieces, Mendelssohn's Sixth Sonata, the famous Alain Litanies, a really fun piece to play, and the Bach Prelude and Fugue in D major.

I would just like to thank you for all the work that you

did, for the whole trip and for being my teacher, because I learned a lot from you throughout those 6 days.† You were so much help to everyone there and to me, and you made the trip an amazing experience for everyone there.

Jake Street

^
Thank you so very much for the opportunity to meet and learn from so many different teachers, and for the opportunity to learn many things in such a short time.

Katrina Syrochkina

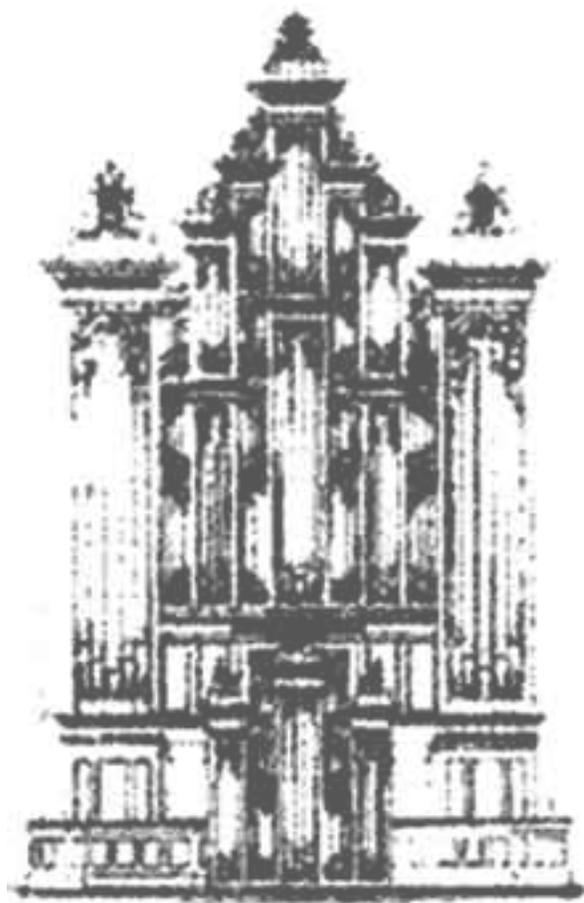
^
The NYCPOE was probably one of the best experiences of my life. First of all, I got to play more organs than I ever



could have here in Jacksonville, FL. In addition, I met several people who have changed my life, and have become some of my closest friends.

Jacob Merrett

^
Visit the chapter web site for more photos by George Davey and Steven Lawson.



In Memoriam

**Dirk
Andries
Flentrop**

*1 May 1910
30 November 2003*