

THE MONTHLY MIXTURE



The Newsletter of the Austin Chapter American Guild of Organists

FEBRUARY 2015



FROM THE DEAN

Throughout this country people look at the American Aeolian-Skinner organ company with great admiration and reverence. Before their decline in the late 1960s famed organist Virgil Fox went from organ committee to organ committee across the country saying, “your organ must play everything, and it must be built by Aeolian-Skinner.” It’s interesting that in Aeolian-Skinner’s organ building genealogy sits another organ firm started by two brothers in Boston. This company laid the groundwork for what would be known as the American Classic Organ that Aeolian-Skinner would be associated with.



At the age of 17 and 19 brothers Elias and George Greenleaf Hook began working in William M. Goodrich’s organ shop as cabinetmakers. In 1827 they branched off to start the E & G.G. Hook organ firm in Boston which quickly grew in fame and size building 30 organs a year. In 1871 a young man named Francis Hastings had worked his way up the company and became a full partner changing the name plate to E & G.G. Hook & Hastings producing 50 organs a year. How did they produce 50 mechanical organs a year without the aid of modern technology? Now enters the concept of the model organ.

We’ve all heard of the Wick’s Forward Four, the Holtkamp Martini, or a Moller Artist. This idea of selling predesigned organs began with Hook & Hastings. Flipping through their catalogue you could find a modest sized 1-manual to small 3-manual organ design that the consumer had some control over. For example, on the “Fifteen” you could substitute an Aeoline for the swell three rank Dolce Cornet. Though facades varied from installation to installation you could always see the same “box” underneath them holding the predesigned mechanism. This lowered the price for the consumer and made production faster without having to go back to the drawing board.

As time progressed, the firm grew in popularity and in size. European immigrants found work in the sizeable shop and with them European influences in organ building. For example, in their larger organs it was not uncommon to find fiery French chorus reeds while the principal choruses had the brilliance of North Germany. The flutes and diapasons spoke with an English accent while the vox humana stayed dark and quiet. The larger organs used a barker lever to assist in making the action easier to maneuver. One source says, “The more the company was influenced by other European organ building ideas the more the company became purely American.”

Francis Hastings died in 1916. The company was given over to relatives that didn’t have the same passion and fervor as the Hooks or Hastings. By the great depression the company closed. Some major factors include the fact that organs were becoming more Romantic with more 8’ stops and less brilliance. Also, by this time other energetic companies like Moller, Austin and Skinner competing for business.

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FROM THE DEAN (CONT'D)

So how is Aeolian-Skinner related to Hook and Hastings? When Ernest Skinner was a young man he began working for George Hutchings. It was in 1857, the same time that Francis Hastings began working for the Hooks, that George Hutchings was also a young man who began his training in the E. and G.G. Hook's shop in Boston.

Sincerely,
Aaron M. Garcia, Dean

2014-2015 PROGRAM YEAR

AUSTIN CHAPTER, AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

FEBRUARY

Saturday, February 7 and Sunday, February 8

University Presbyterian Church

Workshop (Saturday) and recital (Sunday) featuring Peter Richard Conte, Grand Court Organist of the Wanamaker organ in Macy's, Philadelphia. *See details below.*

APRIL

Date and Time TBD

Organ Crawl with location(s) to be determined.

Watch future postings for confirmation of day, date and time.

MAY

Sunday, May 17 at 4 PM

End-of-the-year event and members' dinner.

Watch future postings for confirmation of day, date and time.



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University Presbyterian Church

“Ladies Shoes and the World’s Largest Pipe Organ”

While ladies footwear and the world’s largest pipe organ are a combination one would not usually associate together, at a shopping mecca in Philadelphia the union is a natural one. Located in the 7 story courtyard, and accessed through the women’s shoe department, is a musical instrument containing over 28,500 pipes.

Built in 1904 for the St. Louis World’s Fair by a company that went bankrupt from such an endeavor, the Wanamaker organ was purchased in 1909 to be installed in a department store (now Macy’s). Only the fourth organist in the last 103 years, Grand Court Organist Peter Richard Conte plays two daily concerts Monday through Saturday on the mammoth beast lovingly nicknamed “Baby”.

Thanks to the generosity of Max and Gene Sherman, Mr. Conte will come to Austin for the first time to play a concert celebrating the recent additions to the University Presbyterian Church million dollar pipe organ.

The extravaganza will be **Sunday, February 8, 2015, 3 PM**; a workshop about the Wanamaker pipe organ will be held Saturday, **February 7, 2015, 10 AM to 12 NOON**. Both events are free and open to the public. Free parking will also be available in the Co-Op parking garage across the street. More information can be found at www.upcaustin.org or calling the church office at (512-476-5321).

Chairperson of the renovation committee in 2000 that oversaw the rebuilding of the sanctuary and pipe organ, Gene Alice Sherman, was herself an organist for many years in Amarillo, Texas. The Austin pipe organ built in 2000 by Dan Garland of Fort Worth, Texas, was designed to include future additions. In 2004, an informal committee of Mrs. Sherman, Ara Carapetyan, Scott McNulty, and Mr. Garland, came up with a plan that would complete the already magnificent UPC organ. Nearly ten years later, the Shermans announced their plans to make this dream a reality, giving a generous donation to add 15 more ranks (sounds).

The completed UPC pipe organ now has 62 ranks and nearly 4000 pipes, and is considered one of the best instruments in Central Texas. A record/playback machine gives an organist the ability to hear the instrument from the congregations’ vantage point. Used weekly in worship, regularly for lessons, Halloween concerts, demonstrations, and with choirs and other instruments for special events, the pipe organ at UPC is well loved.

See Flyer and Program on following pages



Pomp and Pipes

Sunday,
February 8, 2015
3 pm

University
Presbyterian
Church

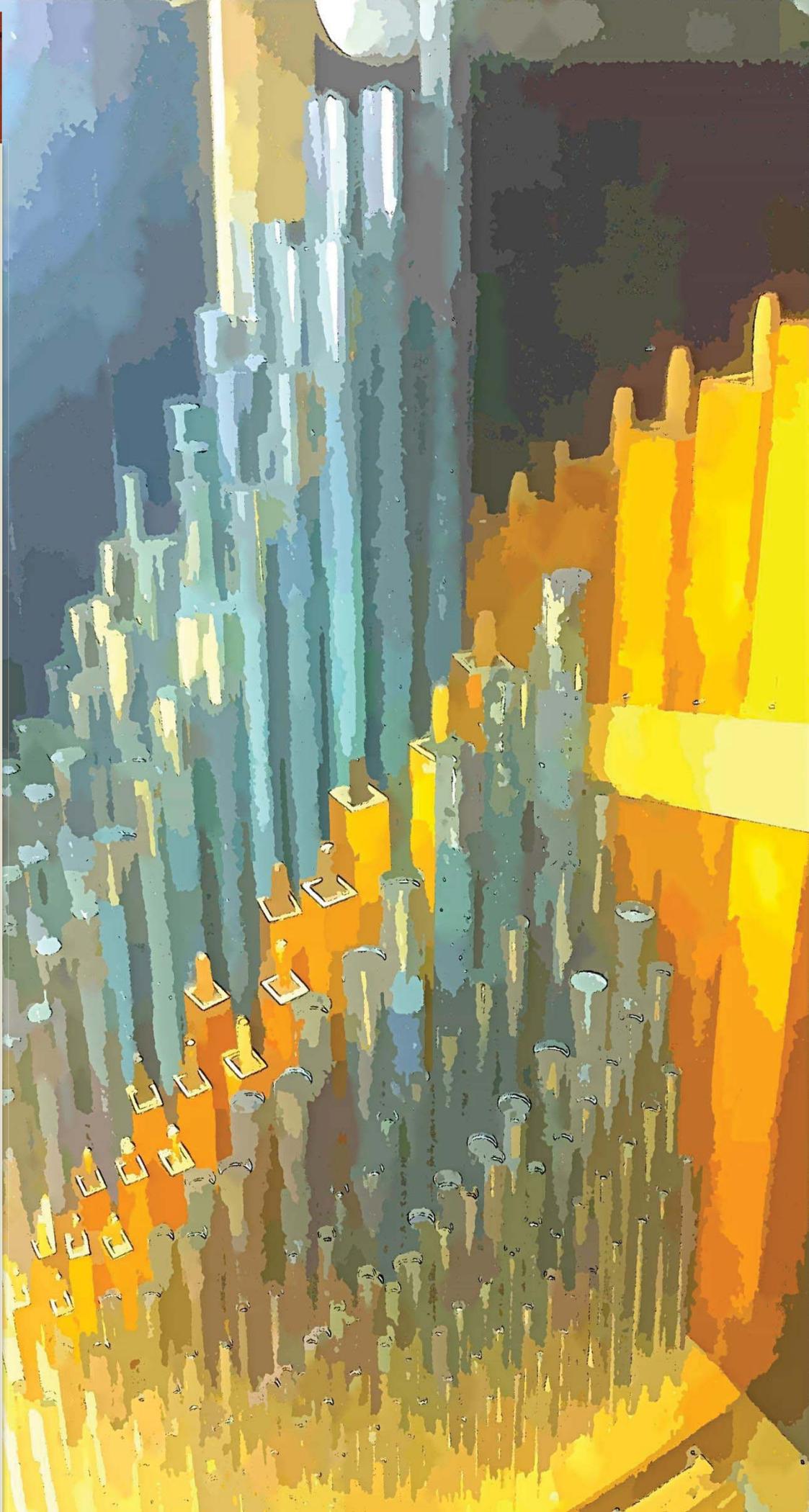
2203 San Antonio Street
Austin, Texas

Free concert and parking
(Co-Op Garage on 23rd Street)

Peter Richard Conte
in Concert
Wanamaker
Grand Court Organist

Workshop on Wanamaker Organ
Saturday, February 7, 2015
10 am-12 noon

(512) 476-5321
www.upcaustin.org





Dear Music Lovers:

We have just finished our grand pipe organ at University Presbyterian Church, Austin, and are celebrating in a big way! Thanks to the generosity of Max and Gene Sherman, Peter Richard Conte (the Wanamaker Grand Court Organist—the largest pipe organ in the world) will come to Austin for the first time to play a concert on **Sunday, February 8, 2015, 3 PM**; a workshop about the Wanamaker pipe organ will be held **Saturday, February 7, 2015, 10 AM-12 NOON**. Both events are free and open to the public. Free parking will also be available in the Co-Op parking garage across the street. For more information, go to www.upcaustin.org.

The completed UPC pipe organ, Opus 38 by Garland Pipe Organs, Inc. of Fort Worth, Texas, now has 62 ranks and nearly 4000 pipes. It is considered by many to be one of the best instruments in Central Texas. A record/playback machine gives an organist the ability to hear the instrument from the congregations' vantage point. The concert program will include:

Overture to Candide
Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
transcribed by Peter Richard Conte

Marche Religieuse
Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Concerto in G Major
Allegro
Grave
Presto
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)
(after Johann Ernst)

Variations on a Theme of Arcangelo Corelli
Fritz Kreisler (1875-1962)
transcribed by Peter Richard Conte

Choral No. 1 in E Major
César Franck (1822-1890)

Ten Minute Interval

From Bach's Memento
Pastorale
Mattheus-Final
Johann Sebastian Bach
transcribed by Charles-Marie Widor

Mondscheinmusik, from Capriccio
Richard Strauss (1864-1949)
transcribed by Peter Richard Conte

Fantasy on Nursery Tunes
Robert Elmore (1913-1985)

Finlandia
Jean Sibelius (1865-1957)
transcribed by Herbert Austin Fricker

Mr. Conte appears courtesy of Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, Hartford, Connecticut (www.concertartists.com), and is on the GOTHIC, JAV, PRO ORGANO, DTR and DORIAN labels.

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LOCAL CONCERTS AND PROGRAMS

FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 15 at 2 PM

Grace Episcopal Church (Georgetown) – Inaugural Year Concert Series

Dr. Don McManus, Music Director and Organist for Grace Episcopal Church (Georgetown), will present “The Music We Sing: Hymns and Chants, Gospel and Spiritual Songs” as the eleventh program of the Inaugural Year Concert Series celebrating the installation of the memorial organ at Grace. As always the program will be open to the public without charge; any freewill donations will be matched dollar-for-dollar and donated to the parish’s *Water for Africa* campaign.

MARCH

Friday, March 6, 2015 at 7:30 PM

Redeemer Presbyterian Church – Holbrook Organ series

Matthias Maierhofer, organist

Friday, March 27, 2015 at 7 PM

Grace Episcopal Church (Georgetown) – Inaugural Year Concert Series

The one-year anniversary of the dedication and inauguration of the memorial organ at Grace. Joyce Jones returns as featured artist, joined by Philip E. Baker and Paul Keith, local composers/organists who will play their own original compositions written for the occasion.



MAY

Friday, May 1, 2015 at 7:30 PM

Redeemer Presbyterian Church – Holbrook Organ series

Paul Keith, organist

JOB OPPORTUNITY

ORGANIST-CHOIR DIRECTOR

Christ Our Savior Lutheran, Lago Vista, TX.

Sunday Morning Service: 10:30 AM

Choir rehearses: Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:00 PM

Salary: \$13,500-\$16,000 (Part Time)

Bachelor’s degree preferred in organ or sacred music.

11-rank Wicks-Patterson pipe organ.

Applications accepted until February 15, 2014.

Contact Pastor Hintze, 512-820-7872, coslutheran@live.com

www.coslvtx.org

Submitted: 20 December

Region Dean's Notice for the *Southwest Regional Convention*



January 26, 2015
Chapter Deans,

I am writing to you to ask for your support in promoting the 2015 Southwest Regional Convention in Fort Worth. With an ambitious but attainable goal of having 300 people attend the convention, I need your help.

Word of mouth is still the best form of advertising. At chapter events please announce the convention and encourage members to register. This can be done online, or through postal mail using the form downloadable from the website.

If your chapter has a monthly newsletter or email, please include the attached logo in the word document to your publications. The more eyes that see the logo, the better. With your support, this convention will be successful.

Southwest Regional Convention Logo

We look forward to seeing you and your chapter members in Fort Worth this summer.

For more information about the convention, follow the link to www.agofortworth2015.org

Cordially,

Collin Boothby
Publicity Chair
2015 Southwest Regional Convention

**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL CONVENTION
JUNE 28 – JULY 1, 2015
FORT WORTH, TEXAS**

ORGAN PLAYING, REPERTOIRE AND FEEDBACK

An informal group of Austin AGO members has formed to meet and play organ repertoire for one another on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 2:00-3:00 PM. Locations vary monthly.

Playing:

Anyone who is interested may play, usually in about ten minute slots — depending on who would like to play each week.

Repertoire:

Bring whatever repertoire you want to play for feedback. Gentle Sunday morning prelude to a knuckle-crunching Demessieux etude — no holds barred!

Feedback:

When you play, you let the group know how to help you, and how you want the others to listen. (Physical technique, musicianship, approach on difficult passages, registration ideas, etc.)

This is a great opportunity to try out new repertoire with a group of peers, before premiering it at church or recital. And, it is a similar opportunity to hear repertoire that you may want to learn in the future.

Contact **Christina Hargis** at chargis@sjnaustin.org to be added to the e-mail distribution/reminder list, and please consider joining us!



Hammond Organ Available

Bob Gowdey has a Hammond (short pedalboard) that is looking for a new home.
Contact Bgowdey@suddenlink.net directly if you have interest!

All newsletter submissions should be sent to monthlymixture@gmail.com

Events, Concerts, Job Opportunities, Professional Development Milestones
Church concert series (individual event listings or pdf flyers), Trivia,
Notes from the Bench (serious or humorous)