



PALO ALTO/PENINSULA CHAPTER AGO

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NEWSLETTER—SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

FROM THE DEAN

Dear Chapter,

I'm looking at sunflowers in front of me, a regal yellow, the quality of which I've never seen before, at least, not quite that rich a hue. It reminds me of the pinky orange of a sugar maple in fall, or the glowering purple of a raincloud, colors which make us stop everything in wonderment. I haven't seen many sugar maples or dark rainclouds around here, but I'm sure you know the feeling.

Color speaks to me in many ways. It says, life has beauty beyond perfection in the integrity of a single flower. It also says to dust the living room in order to match the standards set by these sunflowers. The urge to dust is rare, a testament to the power of color. When I dust, everything changes color giving wood and particle board new luster and depth. Glass which I never noticed was dirty now gleams back, saying, this is what I deserved all along.

The same is true of music. It has colors which just need dusting off. Music is nature's colors only in longer wavelengths. There are so many colors even in a single instrument. Colors abide in organ stops, in composers, in a single piece, and even in a single note, like the sunflower. It takes a little work, but with effort rainbows are made from little black bumps on a page or from the pages of your soul.

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*Performing Chapter Members at the May 15 Recital
at First Congregational Church in Palo Alto*

We have maintained this tradition of evoking rainbows from organs for 20 years now. **We will celebrate our 20th birthday with a barbeque on Sunday, September 5 at 1:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley.** We will also hold a short general assembly meeting after we eat and toast Christ Church, who is making this all possible. I hope you will come with any special friends for our grilled feast complete with champagne and birthday cake. If you would like to bring anything or help bake our cake, let me know. I'm thinking carrot cake, but you might have other ideas.

Here is a rough idea of the agenda for the general assembly:

- Remembering the last 20 years
- Welcome to new members
- Recognize the hard-working board members
- Report on the National Convention in DC
- Treasury Report
- This year's events
- Membership drive
- Vote on stipends for presenters

See you there!

RANI FISCHER

REED ORGAN FOR SALE

Antique pump organ (Chicago Cottage Organ Company) valued at \$1,000 for sale. Contact Jane Newkirk at (925) 273-7370

Tudor rose

John N. Hupalo on a new early English-style organ

At the 2008 American Guild of Organists convention in Minneapolis, Dr Robert Huw Morgan, university organist at Stanford, told me, 'What I really would like is a Tudor organ.' We decided to build a copy of Goetze & Gwynn's Wingfield organ which could be transported easily to institutions in the western United States.

Last summer I saw the English chamber organ in St Luke's, Smithfield, Virginia, which appeared not to have any finish. Furniture painting during the Tudor period is well documented, but furniture staining techniques of this period is less so. In contrast to Goetze & Gwynn's painted Wingfield case, our case has a stained finish.

Our Tudor-style organ, like the Wingfield, is based on a 5ft pitch façade rank with two octave ranks and two super octave ranks in Pythagorean tuning. The specification is therefore 8.4.4.2.2 transposed. There is much literature for this period organ, including works by Blitheman, Redford and Tallis.

The Wingfield pipes are wooden, but we decided to use a high tin content. Inspired by the organ at St Nicholas, Stanford-on-Avon, several façade pipes are embossed and will eventually be gilded; the centre pipe will be gilded with grisaille. The case is of quarter-sawn white oak with carved linen-fold panels. The Tudor rose on either side is reminiscent of the carved rose on



Shrewsbury Tower at St John's College, Cambridge, Dr Morgan's alma mater.

Those who worked on this organ are Bill Visscher (cabinetry), Steve Repasky (bellows leathering) and myself (wood carving, pipe making/voicing and finishing). It should be playable in Stanford's Memorial Church by Christmas 2009.

This article, originally printed in Choir and Organ magazine, describes the new Tudor organ that is being installed this month at Stanford Memorial Church

RCCO CONVENTION REVIEW

The Royal Canadian College of Organists held its 2010 convention in beautiful Victoria and Vancouver, BC July 18-22. The theme was "Pipes Around the Pacific". This theme was highlighted in the selection of recital repertoire, featured performers and workshops offered with representation of countries including Korea, China, Japan, the U.S. and Canada. Several new pieces were commissioned for this event. Concerts were held in local churches as well as the Victoria Conservatory of Music whose 100 year old Cassavant organ had recently been restored. A recital was given on the anniversary of its original installation. Of course, it could not be an organ convention without sampling up close some historic organs of the area. In all I heard and saw at least 14 different organs, each one of them a delight to explore.

One workshop I attended was on the topic of Youth and the Organ. The presenter, Neil Cockburn gave some interesting perspectives on how to connect with youth and nurture an interest in the organ. De-emphasizing the organ as a "church" instrument (which automatically turns many people off) and instead presenting the organ as a musical instrument (which crosses all faith or ideological divides) was one idea given. The fact that most organs are found in churches means that we need to be more creative as organ ambassadors. This is something to think about at least.

Beautiful music, inspiring performers and workshops in two wonderful cities easily made this the highlight of my summer and a great way to get inspired for the seasons which lie ahead!
BRAD CROUSHORN

CALENDAR LISTINGS

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 5: CHAPTER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

1:00 p.m. (see Dean's letter for details). Christ Church Portola Valley.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 p.m. Robert Morgan. Stanford Memorial Church.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26

7:00 p.m. "Unforgettable" Concert to support Alzheimer's Assoc. Los Altos United Methodist Church.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 3

4:00 p.m. Angela Kraft Cross (piano) plays Romantic works. Congregational Church of San Mateo.

SUNDAY OCTOBER 24

4:00 p.m. Brad Croushorn (baritone) and Rani Fischer (piano) perform German Lieder. St. Bede's Menlo Park.

FOR ADDITIONAL CALENDAR LISTINGS please see the San Francisco Chapter's Bay Area Concert Calendar at the following site: <http://tinyurl.com/yzcqdf>.