

Hawaii Chapter
American Guild of Organists

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, January 19, 2008 • 7:30 pm

Durufié, Missa Cum Jubilo

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 539 Kapahulu Avenue
John Renke, organist

This is a benefit concert which will feature the latest Walker digital organ and a choir of baritones singing the ancient chants. John Renke of St. Andrew's Cathedral will be the organ soloist. Timothy Carney will assist the men of the St. Mark's Singers. Tickets are \$20 general and \$15 students. For information, call 732-2333 or 342-7756.

Saturday, January 26, 2008 • 5:30 pm

The Virtual Organ

Iolani School, Seto Hall

(downstairs of the parking structure)

563 Kamoku Street

Katherine Crosier, Joey Fala and

Christopher Lindsay, organists

This workshop will demonstrate Iolani School's solution for providing organ music at All-School Chapels in the Gym: the employment of a Macintosh computer running Hauptwerk® virtual pipe organ software, two stackable keyboards and a pedalboard. Organ students are particularly encouraged to consider this option for a practice instrument. Time will be allowed at the end for any workshop participants to try out the instrument.

A map and further information will be found on page 2 of this newsletter.



DEAN'S COLUMN

The New Year offers a brief interlude between the reflection on things past and the anticipation of things to come. As I look back over the first half of our AGO "year", I see the Midsummer Night's Organ Concert; the Bach Pilgrimage; Nosferatu; the Clergy Appreciation Dinner; and the musical blessings shared during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. As I look forward, we have a variety of events including two this month featuring the Walker digital organ at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Iolani's Virtual Organ; an organ crawl to look at two pipe organs and their restoration; the celebration of Easter; the Young Artists' Recital; our Annual Meeting; and the Paul Jacobs organ concert.

This Spring you will also be invited to renew your membership and encouraged to invite others to join our local chapter. Applications for the scholarship program will be accepted and young and not-so-young will have an opportunity to be introduced to the organ or to continue their study of this magnificent instrument. Our AGO Executive Board is actively planning events for the International Year of the Organ, which is slated to begin this summer and provide programming not only for our chapter members, but to promote the organ in a variety of ways and venues to the community at large. It promises to be an exciting AGO year, 2008-2009!

The January issue of TAO includes a masterful piece written by Frederick Swann calling the Guild to a standard of inclusiveness and reconciliation for all. My thanks to our Hawaii chapter for the spirit of Aloha that guides our actions and our attitudes! James Thomashower presented an informative reality check on the digital age in which we find ourselves – do read his article before our January events if you have a chance.

May this new year give you the joy and continuity of things cherished and the hope and expectation of things desired.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Margaret Lloyd, Dean



This is the onscreen console on the computer. In order to “pull out a stop,” one clicks on the stop knob with the mouse or trackpad. As you depress the keys on the physical keyboard, you can see the keys on the computer screen move up and down. The swell and crescendo pedals behave like their “real” counterparts, and you can see these pedals move up and down as you press on them.

IOLANI’S “VIRTUAL ORGAN”

by Katherine Crosier

As many of you know, I am the Chapel Organist at Iolani School. That means I play for daily services at St. Alban’s Chapel on Iolani’s campus. The building seats about 500 people, and every day, different grade levels of students attend a 20-minute service. For example, Monday is 7th and 8th grade chapel, Tuesday is 9th and 10th grade chapel, and so forth.

All-School Chapel (grades K-12) services are held in the Lower Gym for the occasions of the opening of school, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Honors Day. Ever since I’ve been organist, there has been an aging electronic instrument which has been hauled out for these five services. In the early years, there was a Hammond. Later when it finally died, we had an old Rodgers which came out of Kamehameha’s chorus room.

At Thanksgiving Chapel in 2005, the organ was set up and a number of keys had “fallen” to the bottom, creating a horrible tone cluster. A quick call to the organ technician confirmed our worst nightmare: the instrument was ravaged by termites and hopelessly beyond repair. We had to find a solution, fast and economical. After all, we would only be using this instrument five times a year.

I remembered watching a demonstration of a virtual organ at the Los Angeles National AGO Convention and contacted the suppliers. Shortly after Christmas, we had the new instrument ready to go.

The manufacturer of the Hauptwerk® virtual organ software says this about their product:

“the pioneering virtual organ system that can bring the experience and sound of playing any pipe organ from anywhere in the world within the reach of almost anyone with a home computer and MIDI keyboard or MIDI sequencer, with incredible realism down to every last acoustic nuance and functional detail, whilst also power-



A view of the Virtual organ from the left side of the console. You can see the computer screen near the top of the photo.



A view from the right side of the console. You can clearly see the “console” image on the laptop computer screen.

ing the next generation of electronic digital organs and voice expanders for both classical organs and theatre organs.”

What is fascinating to me is that a number of historic organs all over the world have been digitally sampled, which in turn can be downloaded to your own computer. It means that you have the near-realistic experience of playing some of these famous organs yourself.

Here are some sample sets worth listening to:

A 1907 Cavaillé-Coll, Notre-Dame de Metz, France: <http://www.milandigitalaudio.com/ndm-cavaille-coll.htm>

THE VIRTUAL ORGAN, cont.

A 1608 Arp Schnitger organ, Cappel, Germany: <http://www.milandigitalaudio.com/schnitger.htm>

A 1709 Gottfried Silbermann organ, Rötha, Germany: <http://www.milandigitalaudio.com/silbermannstmarien.htm>

Many other sample sets can be found on this website:

<http://www.crumhorn-labs.com/Hauptwerk-SampleSets.shtml>

Happy listening, and see you on the 26th!

Directions to Iolani School: Go makai on University Avenue until Date Street. Turn left on Date Street until you reach the corner of Kapiolani Blvd. Make an oblique right turn into Kamoku Street and turn left into the parking structure. Visitor parking is free and is available on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors. Take the elevator down to the first floor. Seto Hall will be on your right. A campus map is found on page 4 of this newsletter.



Katherine Crosier is shown at the console of the Virtual Organ with her two young students, Joey Fala and Christopher Lindsay.

Please distribute the poster (see last page of this newsletter) about this event to organ students, music enthusiasts, computer geeks or any others who might be interested in this ground-breaking technology.

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UPCOMING HAWAII AGO PROGRAMS

January 19, 2008. Duruflé, "Missa Cum Jubilo" played by organist John Renke on the Walker digital organ at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 539 Kapahulu Ave. Baritone Timothy Carney will join the men of St. Mark's Singers. A benefit concert for St. Mark's. Admission \$20/\$15 students.

January 26, 2008. "Organ Crawl, Part I" to Iolani School's "Virtual Organ," a Macintosh computer running Hauptwerk® virtual pipe organ software, with two manuals and pedal.

February 2008. "Organ Crawl, Part II" to Central Union Church and the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. Date to be announced.

March 2008, No meeting (Easter)

April 26, 2008. "The Young Organist," featuring AGO scholarship students and other young organists at the Lutheran Church of Honolulu. 7:00 pm.

May 2008. Annual Dinner Meeting, election of officers.

June 13, 2008. Paul Jacobs Concert at Central Union Church, 7:00 pm.



Free parking here

SETO HALL

take the elevator from the parking structure to the first floor



The early registration deadline of January 31 is rapidly approaching for the 2008 AGO National Convention, June 22-26, in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota. You can take full advantage of the discounted early registration rates and get all the details about the convention at <http://www.ago2008.org/>.

Here are a few convention events you may find particularly interesting:

1. An evening concert, choral matins, and evensong with the St. Paul's Cathedral Choir of London.
2. A special, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend a presentation of Pipedreams Live! hosted by American Public Media's Michael Barone. This will mark the official start of the International Year of the Organ.
3. Major new works from internationally renowned composers, plus the U.S. premiere of the Te Deum by Siegfried Matthus at the St. Paul Cathedral with massed choirs and orchestra, a performance that is **NOT TO BE MISSED**.
4. Great instruments including organs by Dobson, Casavant, Fisk, Blackington, Lively-Fulcher, and Schantz among many others in great spaces including St. Paul Cathedral, Basilica of St. Mary, Central Lutheran Church, St. Mark's Cathedral, Bethel College, St. Andrew's Lutheran, and Wooddale Church.
5. More than 60 diverse workshops including a special pedagogy track focusing on the organ music of Olivier Messiaen and a gala evening concert of Messiaen's instrumental music at Orchestra Hall.

The convention headquarters hotel, The Hilton Minneapolis, is an elegant facility with high-speed wireless internet in all rooms. The convention room rate is \$138 per night. For reservations call 888-933-5353 or use the link on the convention Web site. Register now at <http://www.ago2008.org/> and make sure you don't miss the most important AGO event of the biennium. See you there!

BACH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

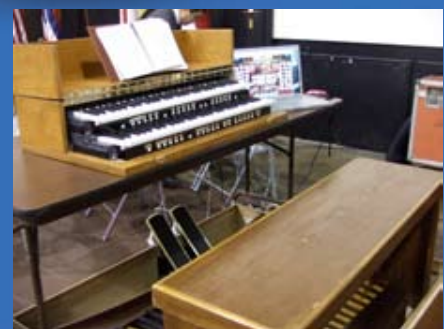
A Demonstration of
Iolani's Virtual Organ

Saturday, January 26
5:30 pm in Seto Hall

FREE!



Organists Katherine Croster,
Joey Fala and Christopher Lindsay
will perform famous organ works by
Bach and Mouret using Hauptwerk®
virtual pipe organ software.



*"The experience and sound of playing any
pipe organ from anywhere in the world within
the reach of anyone with a home computer and
MIDI keyboard." A perfect practice instrument for
any organ student!*