

Michael Fazio lecture in São Paulo

Michael Fazio, president of **Austin Organs**, presented "A Construção de órganos nos Estados Unidos e a tradição Austin" (Construction of organs in the USA in the Austin tradition) in São Paulo, Brazil, on March 31. The presentation was hosted by the University of São Paulo and was attended by faculty members and organ students of Dr. Dorotéa Kerr.

Fazio's lecture and multimedia presentation was delivered in Portuguese, following a three-week crash course online and subsequent translation with the aid of Google Translate. The presentation included a virtual tour of projects currently underway in the Austin factory, including a new 5-manual/107-rank organ for First Baptist Church, Washington, D.C., the complete rebuilding of the 4-manual/247-rank Austin at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Hanover, Pennsylvania, and the rebuilding of two Austin organs at Buncombe Street United Methodist Church in Greenville,

South Carolina While in São Paulo, Fazio also helped work on the 100-year-old Austin organ in the Catedral Evangelica de São Paulo (Presbyterian), which was originally installed in the First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, South Carolina. São Paulo organ technician Warwick Kerr removed the organ from the South Carolina church and installed it in the São Paulo Cathedral in 1986.

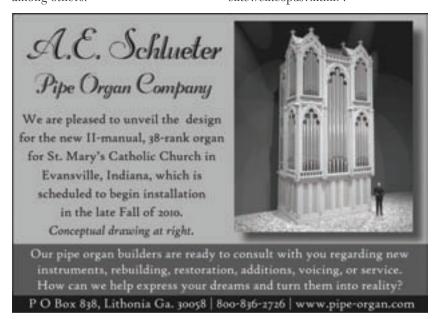
In response to requests from people who were not able to attend the university lecture, a second presentation was offered on April 3 at the Catedral Evangelica de São Paulo.



Allen Elite Opus VII. St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Roanoke, Virginia

Allen Organ Company announces the installation of Elite Opus VII at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Roanoke, Virginia. Elite™ Opus VII is a four-manual, 95-stop instrument decimal act only to support the liturgy. signed not only to support the liturgy, but also to serve as a major concert instrument. The dedication concert series on this instrument features such artists as Peter Latona (Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception), Sophie-Veronique Cauchefer-Choplin (St. Sulpice), Aram Başmadjian, and Diane Bish, among others

This new organ was built to replace a 12-rank Zimmer pipe organ that had served the congregation since the early 1970s. Due to a sizable donation in memory of Jennie Laurie, the church was able to consider several options. Rudy Lucente, assistant organist at the Grand Court Organ (Macy's-Philadelphia), Kelly J. Wheelbarger, director of music and or-ganist for St. Andrew's Church, and the donor ultimately decided that a custom Elite instrument would best serve the needs of the church. For information: http://allenorgan.com/www/products/elite7/eliteopus7.html>.



Carillon News by Brian Swager



Kirk in the Hills

International Carillon Congress in Michigan

Seven churches and three universities in Michigan will host a joint congress of the World Carillon Federation and the Guild of Carillonneurs in North America from June 26 through July 2. The gather-ing will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the GCNA, the 75th anniversary of the University of Michigan Baird Carillon, and the start of the next 500 years of the carillon, which originated in the area of Europe that now comprises Belgium, the Netherlands, and northern France. Activities will include recitals on nine carillons as well as other instrumental and ensemble performances, presentations and workshops, business meetings,

tions and worksnops, business meetings, and social events.

Congress headquarters will be located at Kirk in the Hills, Bloomfield Hills. The Kirk (77-bell Petit & Fritsen carillon) will host all events on Sunday and Monday, while St. Hugo of the Hills Catholic Church (48-bell Eijsbouts carillon) and Christ Church Cranbrook (50-bell Taylor carillon), also in Bloom-field Hills, will be Wednesday and Friday's venues. Participants will journey to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, on Tuesday, where activities will include a silent film with carillon accompaniment at the Baird Carillon (Taylor, 55 bells) on the central campus, a 75th-anniversary extravaganza recital on the north campus Lurie Carillon (Eijsbouts, 60 bells), a visit to the nearby Kerrytown Chime, and a Pipe Organ Encounter.

Thursday will feature a visit to Detroit to see and hear carillons at St. Mary's of Redford (Paccard, 51 bells), Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church (Gillett & Johnston, 23 bells), Christ Church Grosse Pointe (Gillett & Johnston, 35 bells), and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church (Gillett & Johnston/Petit & Fritsen, 47 bells). On Saturday, following the previous day's closing ceremonies, Michigan State University (Gillett & Johnston/Eijsbouts, Obella): First Marian 10 bella in 10 bel 49 bells) in East Lansing and Grand Val-





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Paccard, 48 bells) in Grand Rapids will

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For further details, see <www.gcna.
org>, <www.carillon.org>, and Facebook: Carillon Congress 2011.

North America: <www.gcna.org>.

In the wind . . .

by John Bishop



Aeolus

Ruler of the winds. That's who he was. According to Greek mythology, he was son of King Hippotes and custodian of the four winds, keeping them in the heart of the Lipara Islands near Sicily. At the request of other gods, Aeolus would release goatle bycory or force goles do release gentle breezes or fierce gales, de-pending on the circumstances. He was pending on the circumstances. He was something of a vendor to the gods. The Greek hero Odysseus visited Aeolus, who gave him a parting gift of the four winds in a bag to ensure his safe return to Ithaca. During the voyage, Odysseus's crew was curious about the contents of the bear. When they were findly close the bag. When they were finally close enough to actually see Ithaca, Odysseus fell asleep. Members of his crew opened the bag, releasing the winds, and the ship was blown disastrously off course.¹

It's not for nothing that there was an organbuilding company named Aeolian, later merged with the Skinner Organ Company to form the august firm of Aeolian-Skinner, builder of many of America's greatest pipe organs. The Aeolian myth is the heart of the pipe organ.

I love wind. We live near the ocean where the wind can have the special quality of having moved unobstructed for hundreds, if not thousands, of miles. Sometimes it's gentle and refreshing, sometimes it's bracing and challenging, and sometimes it's downright scary—but it's always blowing and feels like a friend to me. Maybe this is a reaction to having spent thousands of hours in the deep and dark recesses of church buildings, toiling and moiling on recalcitrant machines. Leaving a building at the end of the day, I love that wonderful feeling of air moving around me. I picture the day's dust and debris wafting from my erstwhile hair, something like Charles Schultz's





THE DIAPASON

creation Pigpen, friend and confidant of Charlie Brown.

I love harnessing the wind to make a small sailboat go. With tiller in one hand and main-sheet in the other, the feeling of owning the wind—of inviting it to draw me where I want to go—is a thrill. I can see the approach of a puff—an extra burst of wind—making tracks on the water coming towards me so I can loosen the pull of the sail at just the right moment to retain control of the boat. I know the marks on the water are a little behind the leading edge of the puff so the puff actually hits my sails before the rougher water hits the hull. If I'm sailing across or into the wind, I'm aware of its power moving past me. If I'm sailing with the wind at my stern and everything's going right, my boat moves at close to the same speed as the wind, so it seems relatively calm.

When I was kid, I learned about the principles of lift by holding my flat hand out the car window as my parents drove. If I cupped my hand a little so my knuckles were higher than the tips of my fingers, my hand would be pulled upwards. I now know that I was simulating the I now know that I was simulating the curved upper surface of an airplane's wings, causing the air above my hand to move faster than the air under it. The faster moving air created a lower pres-sure above my hand, causing it to lift. My curved hand gave the same effect as the curve of my boat's sails. The sails are mounted upright—so the air moving faster across the convex curves of the front of the sail draws the boat forward. The only time the wind actually pushes the boat is if the wind is from behind. Otherwise, the boat is being pulled forward by that pressure differential.

As a student at Oberlin, I was privileged to practice, study, and perform on the school's wonderful Flentrop organ. It was brand-new for my freshman year, right in the heart of our twentieth-century Renaissance, the revival of classic styles of pipe organ building. While many of us were used to the solid wind of early twentieth-century organs, that instrument had a flexible wind supply, terrific for supporting the motion of Baroque music, but a certain trap for the inattentive organist. Approach a big chord wrong, and the sagging of the wind would remind you of the feeling you get in your stomach going over the top of a roller-coaster hill. If you played with a firm hand on the main-sheet, watching the wind like a hawk, you'd return safely to the dock boosted by your friend the wind. I don't do the thing with my hand out

the car window any more because I'm almost always the one driving. Judging from my neighbors on many highways, I should keep my hands free for texting, flossing my teeth, or putting on makeup. But I don't text or brush my teeth while I drive, and I never wear makeup.

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Harnessing the wind has been a human endeavor for millennia. There are images of sailing vessels under weigh on dating from about 3000 BC, and by 500 BC sailing ships had two masts and could apparently carry 200 tons of freight. The Persians developed windmills for grinding grain around 500 BC. And the earliest form of the pipe organ dated from around 250 BC.

Just as wind draws a sailboat rather than pushes it, the wind itself is usually drawn instead being "blown." Meteorologists tell us of high- and low-pressure areas. A low-pressure area represents a lighter density of air, and high-pressure air flows toward it. A "sea-breeze" is formed by convection. If a coastal area warms up in the sun around midday, the air above the land rises and cooler air from above the water flows in to take its place. So most winds are "flowing to-ward" rather than "blowing away."

The motion of air that we know as wind is one of the greatest forces on earth. If a gentle wind blowing over the table on your porch can send a plate of crackers flying, think of how much ag-gregate force there is across ten or twenty miles of porches. You could move a lot of crackers. This might not be the place for political or social opinions—but I'd rather see windmills than strip mines. Both are bad for birds and both interrupt the landscape, but one doesn't lead to smog or acid rain. And let's not even

mention spent nuclear fuel rods. Spent wind is fully recyclable!

Harnessing the wind is the work of the organbuilder. We create machinery that moves air, stores it under pressure, distributes it through our instruments, and lets it blow into our expectable weeks which is the content of the property o lets it blow into our carefully made whis-tles. The energy of the moving air is transformed into sonic energy. As one mentor said to me years ago, air is the fuel we use to create organ tone. Ever wonder why a wider pipe mouth, open toe, or open windway creates louder tone? Simple more fuel is getting to the burner.

When I sit in a church listening to a great organ, I imagine thousands of little valves flitting open and closed, and reservoirs and wind regulators absolutely tingling to release the treasure of their stored fuel into the heavens as glorious sound. They may be machines, but when they're doing their thing dur-

Wendy and I have been enjoying the use of an apartment in New York City's Greenwich Village that belongs to friends of my parents. Yesterday we went up to Midtown to attend an Easter festival vice at St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue. We chose the early Mass at 8:00 because the church's website assured us that the music would be the same as at the later version but the crowds would likely be less. Preludes with organ and brass started at 7:30, including music of Pelz, Howells, Gabrieli, Dupré's Poème Héroïque, and Richard Strauss's Feierlicher Enzug—a mighty amount of music for that hour of the day. The Mass setting was the premiere of John Scott's Missa was the premiere of John Scott's Missa Dies Resurrectionis.

John Scott must be the greatest addition to American church music since electric organ blowers. His superb musicianship, immaculate sense of timing,

ing worship, they take on what seems like human urgency.

There were six extraordinary brass players (plus percussion), about 30 boys and 20 men in the choir (I didn't count, so I'm probably not accurate), ten clergy and attendants, and maybe a thousand congregants. Quite a hoopla for eight in the morning. The Great Organ in the chancel has 159 ranks, and there's a gorgeous Taylor & Boody organ in the gallery with 32 ranks. Add us all up and we were burning a lot of fuel. It's beautiful to me to stand in the midst of all that

stimulated to do or feel something, especially something creative; and the drawing in of breath. These two meanings come together dramatically during festi-

val Masses in our great churches.

When we worship in great churches like St. Thomas in New York, we are surrounded by opulent works of art.

Choir, St. Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York City (photo credit: Matthew Brown)

welcoming leadership of congregational singing, touching rapport with the boys of the choir, concise and unobtrusive conducting, and by the way, marvelous organ playing made our two hours in that beautiful church as meaningful and memorable a musical experience as I can recall. The new Mass setting was gorgeous, moving from recognizable folk tunes to riffs reminiscent of Olivier Messiaen in the Sanctus. (Is it OK to say Messiaenic when describing Easter music?)
I love noticing the way the sound of an

organ can change with different players. Dr. Scott was conducting for most of the Mass, and we were treated to the wonderful playing of associate organist Frederick Teardo and assistant organist Kevin Kwan. Dr. Scott slid onto the bench for the postlude, Gigout's *Grand Choeur Dialogué*, and off we went. Oopah! It was my impression that Scott's years at London's cavernous St. Paul's Cathedral prepared him to treat the magnificent sanctuary of St. Thomas Church as an intimate space. Such rhythm, such drive, such energy, such clarity. Wonderful.

And speaking of wind .

sound, thinking of it in terms of wind. The word *inspiration* has two distinct meanings: the process of being mentally

The reredos created by sculptor Lee Lawrie is 80 feet tall, 43 feet wide and contains more than 80 figures. (If we say it's a 159-rank organ, do we say it's an 80-saint reredos?) The stained-glass windows are spectacular, including a rose window of unusually deep colors that is 25 feet in diameter.

Most churches that own fancy stainedglass windows have to face expensive restoration projects at some point. The effects of air pollution corrode a window's metal components, and simple weathering compromises a window's structure and its ability to keep out the elements. I was maintaining the organs at Trinity Church, Copley Square in Boston when the magnificent windows by John LaFarge were removed for restoration. There were more than 2,000 pieces of glass in some of those windows, and it was just as complicated to restore them as to restore a large pipe organ. And while I think there's less that can go wrong with a reredos than with a window or a pipe organ, I'm sure that at least that great heap of saints has to be cleaned one in a while—a job that would involve the careful choice and use of cleaning solvents and solutions, a big assortment of brushes, a hundred feet of scaffolding, and a fancy insurance policy. Imagine the fiscal implications of dropping a bucket of water from 80 feet up in

ping a bucket of water from 50 feet up in a place like that.

But seldom, if ever, do we hear of a place like St. Thomas Church replacing their windows or reredos. The original designs are integral with the building, and it would hardly cross our minds to say that styles have changed and we need to overhaul the visual content of our liturgical art every generation or so to keep up with the times. Just imagine the stunned silence in the vestry meeting when the rector proposes the replacement of the reredos. "It's just too old fashioned

We hardly bat an eye before proposing the replacement of a pipe organ. Across the country, thousands of churches originally equipped with per-fectly good pipe organs have discarded and replaced them with instruments more in tune with current trends, more in sync with the style and preferences of current musicians, and ostensibly more

economically maintained.

Why is this? Simple. Windows and statues are static. They stay still. The



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sun shines through them and on them, air (and all that comes with it) moves around them, but physically they stay still. A pipe organ is in motion. When you turn on the blower, reservoirs fill, wind conductors are stressed by pressure, leather moves, the fabric of the instrument creaks and groans as it assumes its readiness to play. When you sumes its readiness to piay. When you play a note, valves open, springs are tensioned, air flows, flecks of debris move around. When you play a piece of music, all those motions are multiplied by thousands. The Doxology (OLD HUNDREDTH) comprises 32 four-part chords. DREDTH) comprises 32 four-part chords. That's 128 notes. Play it on a single stop and you've moved 128 note valves, plus all the attendant primaries, magnet armatures, stop and relay switches. Play the same 32 chords on a big organ using 90 stops (nothing out of the ordinary)—11,520 valves. And that's just the Doxology. I'll let you do the math for a big piece by Bach or Widor that has lots of hemi-demi-semi-quayers. I suppose of hemi-demi-semi-quavers. I suppose Wendy and I heard the St. Thomas organ play millions of notes yesterday in that 8:00 Mass. There would be another identical Mass at 11:00, an organ recital at 2:30, and Solemn Evensong at 3:00. A wicked workday for the musicians, and a fifty-million-note day for the organ. Just think of all those busy little valves—millions of tiny movements to create a majestic body of sound.

And the organ wears out. Over the decades of service that is the life of a great organ, technicians move around through the instrument tuning, adjusting, and repairing. Musicians practice, tourists receive demonstrations, liturgies come and go. That organ blower gets turned on and off dozens of times each week. The daylight streams through the windows, but the daylights get beaten out of

dows, but the daylights get beaten out of the organ.

I've been in and out of St. Thomas Church many times. I've heard plenty of brilliant organists play there, and I've never been disappointed by what I heard. But I've known for years that the chancel organ is in trouble. It has played billions of notes. It's been rebuilt a number of times. And it's simply worn out. It's a of times. And it's simply worn out. It's a rare church musician who would intentionally offer less than the best possible to the congregation—or to God—during worship. And musicians of the caliber one hears at St. Thomas are masters at getting water from stone. As an organbuilder with a trained and experienced ear, I'm aware of the organ's shortcomings. But as a worshipper, I'm transported.

I single out St. Thomas Church be-I single out St. Thomas Church because we worshipped there yesterday. I know those responsible for the organ, so I know something about its real condition. And prominent on the church's website is an appeal for gifts to support the commissioning of a very expensive new organ. There were even letters from the rector and organist inserted in the Fast rector and organist inserted in the Easter service booklet repeating that appeal. An elderly woman, impeccably dressed and obviously of means (she was wearing the value of a fancy car on her fingers), the value of a fancy car on her fingers), arrived a little after us and joined us in our pew. When the processional hymn started, she let loose a singing voice of unusual power and beauty. I whispered to Wendy, "She'll give the new organ." We chuckled, but a piece of me says I could have been right. I hope so.

Our church buildings are designed with expensive architectural elements.

with expensive architectural elements. Including steeples, towers, stained-glass windows, to say nothing of Gothic arches and carvings in wood and stone, they all add mightily to the cost of building a church. But once it's all there, we think of it as a whole. It would be hard to look back on the history of St. Thomas Church and say the tower was actually unnecessary. Of course they built a tower.

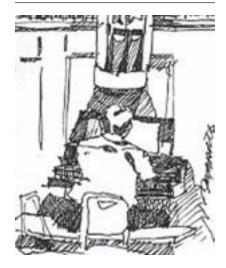
The organ is right up there on the list

of expensive indulgences. How can we say we actually need such a thing? But how can we imagine Easter without it? There's still plenty of wind available. At least there's no fuel bill.

Note

1. www.pantheon.org

On Teaching by Gavin Black



Memory

This month I will write about memorization. More precisely, I will introduce a discussion of memorization with two other related performance issues: sightreading and looking (or not looking) at the keys. These three matters, considered together, provide an interesting and important take on what it means to have learned a piece of music and then to perform that piece. Most of this dis-cussion will take place next month, how-ever, since I want to borrow much of this month's column for another purpose. This month marks the 100th anniversary of the birth of one of the great keyboard performers, scholars, and teachers of the twentieth century—harpsichordist Ralph Kirkpatrick. I want to begin with a tribute to him in honor of that occasion.

Ralph Kirkpatrick

Ralph Kirkpatrick was born on June), 1911, in North Leominster, Massachusetts, an area where, in the years when he was growing up, it was possible to hear a lot of good music in concert—after all, this was still an era when people heard most music live rather than through recordings. In his memoir *Early Years*—about which I will say more below—Kirkpatrick mentions having heard, among others, the singer Amelita Galli-Curci, pianists Sergei Rachmaninoff and Harold Bauer, violin-Quartet. He also notes that the quality and variety of music played by less-renowned performers and by local performing ensembles, especially choral societies, was extraordinary.

During this time he avidly studied piano, and was interested in the widest possible variety of music, acquiring scores of then very new works by, for example, Debussy and Ravel. Kirkpatrick arrived at Harvard University as a freshman in 1927 completely absorbed by music. It was there that, by utter chance, he discovered the harpsichord: a Dolmetsch/Chickering instrument that had recently been donated to the university. The first harpsichord sounds that Ralph Kirkpatrick ever heard were those of jazz played by a music faculty member who hap-pened to have sat down at that instru-ment when Kirkpatrick was in the room. He was intrigued enough to seek out the opportunity to play the instrument, and that set the course of his career.

Concert performer Ralph Kirkpatrick's career comprised concert performance, recording, scholar-ship, and teaching. The latter two came together in his writings. As a concert performer Kirkpatrick was a pioneer: not the first ever to play on the harpsi-chord, but one of the first, and easily the most widely noticed after Landowska. He gave his first harpsichord recital at a meeting of the Harvard Music Club in May 1930. Already by the late 1930s, in his twenties, he was giving well-heralded concerts in what was then called Carnegie Chamber Music Hall (now Weill Regie Chamber Music Hall (now Weill Recital Hall). He was a strong presence on the concert stage through the 1960s, performing in specialized "early music" venues such as Williamsburg, mainstream venues (he was the first harpsichordist to play at Alice Tully Hall, for example), and on festival stages and concert stages throughout the world.

Although most of Kirkpatrick's con-

Although most of Kirkpatrick's concert performance was as a harpsichord soloist, he also performed as a soloist on both clavichord and fortepiano, and especially in his early years, as a chamber musician. He also was a frequent performer of the Bach harpsichord concerti. In about 1974, health problems forced Kirkpatrick to withdraw for a while from the concert stage. By the time his general health had stabilized to the point where he was able to consider resuming concert activity, he had completely lost his sight. At this point he decided that, rather than give up performing, he would take a new approach to playing: one that relied on his very strong memory and large, well-learned repertoire, but that also required him to also return the properties of the complete that the strength and the stre play utterly unassisted by even any peripheral glimpses of the keyboards.

I was fortunate enough to be in the audience at his return concert on September 25, 1977 at Sprague Hall on the campus of Yale University. It was a vivid and exciting performance, and his decision to return to the concert stage at this juncture in his life struck me at the time (and still does today) as an act of great courage and dedication. This concert ushered in a final flowering of his work as a performer that lasted about four years and culminated in a recital at the first Boston Early Music Festival.

RecordingsKirkpatrick's recording career also began early in his life. In 1937 he recorded music of Bach—the *Italian Concerto*, the *Ricercar a 3 voci* from the *Musical* Offering, and the G-major Partita—for the now long-defunct Musicraft label (for which, by the way, the organist Carl Weinrich also recorded Bach, although it was primarily a jazz label). In the 1950s and 1960s he was one of the most prolific recording artists, most famously recording Scarlatti for Columbia and Bach for Deutsche Grammophon Gesellschaft and DGG's Archiv Production. The culmination of this latter series of recordings was a double trip through both books of the Well-tempered Clavier—first on harpsichord, then on clavichord. Many critics and listeners consider the clavichord half of this *tour de force* to be Kirkpatrick's finest recording. He also recorded Mozart solo piano music on a restored 18th-century piano, Mozart concerti with several different ensembles, Haydn songs with mezzo-soprano Jennie Tourel, sonatas of Handel and Mozart with violinist Alexander Schneider, a certain amount Alexander Schneider, a certain amount of twentieth-century music, and various other things. Unfortunately, very few of Ralph Kirkpatrick's recordings are in print as of this writing. Of course, this is always subject to change.

Scholarship

The most renowned aspect of Kirk-patrick's scholarship was his work on Domenico Scarlatti. When he published his biography of Scarlatti in 1953, it was received as a work of great importance. The book concerns itself not only with Scarlatti's life has been with his provise. Scarlatti's life but also with his music, with the culture in which his music was created, and indeed with aspects of the overall history of that time and place. It served as a model for serious, accurate served as a model for serious, accurate scholarship about matters bearing on music and musical performance. Indeed, Kirkpatrick, in the preface to the book, suggests that part of his own interest in taking on what became a long and difficult project was that he "had become painfully aware of the inadequacy of the available texts and the absence of information fundamentally necessary to me as mation fundamentally necessary to me as a performer of his works."

Nowadays we take it for granted that

a performer needs information. This was

