

## Nunc Dimittis

**William Lewis Betts** died October 8, 2011, in Colebrook, Connecticut. An organist and organbuilder in Connecticut, he was founder of the William Betts Pipe Organ Company in Winsted, Connecticut; he built, refurbished, and maintained numerous church organs in the Northeast. Among the instruments under his care were those in several churches in Winsted and New Haven; Norfolk Church of Christ, Congregational, Norfolk; St. Mark's Episcopal Church, New Canaan; and St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Bridgeport, Connecticut. In his younger years he worked for the Austin Organ Company, and he did technical work for the instruments at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine and churches in New York City.

He was also a charismatic musician and performed outstandingly at the console. He played each instrument under his care with great skill. After adjusting the tones of select pipes, he tested the instrument with music from his repertory, played from memory. Workers and visitors to the churches often stood to listen to his impromptu concerts. He had loyal friends who enjoyed the prospect of working on choral extravaganzas under Bill's direction.

After suffering a stroke in 1997, he spent time writing, including a musical history of Northwestern Connecticut. Bill is predeceased by Bonnie Lincoln Betts, his wife of 33 years, and his son Will Betts, Jr. He is survived by his daughter, Caroline Salevitz of Scottsdale, Arizona, two grandchildren, and his sister, Mary Durand Seacord of Roxbury, Connecticut.

—James R. Harrod



**Donald Arthur Busarow**

**Donald Arthur Busarow** died October 24 in Houston. He was 77. Born in 1934 in Racine, Wisconsin, he received a bachelor's degree from Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois, a master's degree from the Cleveland Institute of Music, and a PhD from Michigan State University. Busarow was a profes-

sor at Concordia College in Milwaukee before going to Wittenberg University in 1975, where he was professor of music, university organist, and in 1982, was named director of the Wittenberg Choir, which performed throughout the United States and Europe. He played numerous organ recitals and led hymn festivals and choral and organ workshops throughout the country. A member of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church in Huber Heights, Ohio, where he served for 24 years as organist and choir director, Busarow was also the organist at the First Presbyterian Church of South Charleston, Ohio, for the past ten years.

A noted composer of church music, Busarow's many compositions can be found in the catalogs of seven publishing houses. He was also involved in organ consultation and design; most recently, he designed the organ at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Honors awarded Busarow include an honorary doctorate from Concordia University in 1996, and a hymn festival in his honor in Dublin, Ohio, this past May by the Columbus Association of Lutheran Church Musicians Cantor Connection, under the direction of his grandson, Jonathan. In *Celebrating the Musical Heritage of the Lutheran Church*, published by Thrivent, he was named one of the ten Lutheran composers representing the 20th century.

Donald Arthur Busarow is survived by his wife of 55 years, Peggy, six children, 14 grandchildren, a great grandson, a brother, sister, two sisters-in-law, and nieces and nephews.

**Gene Paul Strayer**, age 69, died October 10 in York, Pennsylvania. He received a BA from American University, an MA from the University of Chicago, a Bestatigung from the Goethe Institute in Passau, Germany, an MSM from Union Theological School of Sacred Music, and a PhD from the University of Pennsylvania. Strayer taught the history of religions at Miles College, the University of Colorado at Boulder, and the University of Pennsylvania, where he received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching. He also taught piano, organ, conducting, and composition.

He served as organist-choirmaster at churches in Bethesda, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Chicago, New York City, Boulder, and York, where he served Trinity United Church of Christ for ten years, and since 1996, at St. Rose of Lima Church, where he developed an extensive choral program for children. Strayer performed widely, including at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York, Washington National Cathedral, and in England, Germany, and Switzerland. The founder and first director of the Boulder Bach Festival, he later founded the York Ecumenical Choral Society after moving to York. A past dean of the York AGO chapter, Strayer was a member of the American Academy of Religion, the American Musicological Society, the Organ Historical Society, and the Matinee Musical Club of York. Gene Paul Strayer is survived by relatives and friends.



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## Here & There

**Breitkopf** has released a new volume of harpsichord works by Samuel Scheidt (*Handschriftlich überlieferte Werke für Clavier*, EB 8831, €32). Edited by Pieter Dirksen, the volume contains 25 pieces—twelve ascertainably by Scheidt, three early versions of pieces from the *Tabulatura nova*, and ten assigned to Scheidt based on stylistic criteria. The Urtext edition presents the musical text in the form of a "practical source edition," and reproduces several characteristics of the notational practice of the time. For information: <www.breitkopf.com>.

**Edition Delatour** announces the publication of Jeanne Demessieux's transcription of Liszt's *Funerailles*. Liszt himself made a number of significant arrangements of works by other composers (including lieder, symphonies, and cantatas, by Bach, Beethoven, and Chopin) along with his original works. Demessieux's transcription follows in the tradition. Commentary is in German, English, and French; level is quite difficult; DLT0787. For information: <www.editions-delatour.com>.

**Hal Leonard Books** announces the release of *Making Your Mark in Music: Stage Performance Secrets* (\$29.99) by Anika Paris. The book blends psychol-

ogy, Eastern philosophy, the art of conversation, and performance techniques for performing musicians of all levels. It reveals the inner workings of performance from an artist's perspective while also functioning as a self-discovery and artist-development journal.

The accompanying DVD documents a masterclass in which Paris works with students from the Musicians Institute, applying concepts, techniques, and methods discussed in the book. Before and after videos of the students' performances demonstrate the process of taking a song from the studio and delivering a professional performance on stage; 168 pages, paperback with DVD, \$29.99; for information: <www.halleonardbooks.com>.

**Pape Verlag Berlin** announces the publication of Hermann Fischer's book, *Die Orgelbauerfamilie Steinmeyer in Oettingen* (the Organbuilding House of Steinmeyer in Oettingen). With this work, Hermann Fischer concludes more than forty years of engagement with the history of the Steinmeyer Company. In its 627 pages he chronicles the family and firm of Georg Friedrich Steinmeyer (1819–1901), describing developments across four generations of leadership by ten different family members or teams, reporting on the technical details of the organs—both new instruments and restorations, as well as on relevant documents

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The project's principals: The Rev. Monsignor William Carr, music director Allen Bean, consultant Grant Hellmers, builder John-Paul Buzard, parish project coordinator John McCulla

**John-Paul Buzard Pipe Organ Builders** announces the contracting of a new pipe organ for St. Bridget Roman Catholic Church, Richmond, Virginia. The new organ will be the builder's Opus 42, and will feature 32 speaking stops (38 ranks) across three manuals and pedal. The instrument's installation will uncover a large stained glass window that has not been seen by the congregation for more than 35 years. The organ's three cases will highlight the window: each section of a divided Swell to the sides, and the Great division over and in front of the gallery rail below it.

The instrument was to have been contracted three years ago but was postponed immediately following the crash of the stock market. During the last three years committed parishioners have raised all the money through special fund-raising efforts to allow the project to move forward. Additional funds are being raised to allow for immediate installation of three stops that had been prepared for future installation. The organ will be installed and completed following Easter 2013.

The director of music and liturgy is Allen Bean. The parish has received organ consultation services during the last two years from Grant Hellmers. The pastor



Design drawing by John-Paul Buzard, rendered in 3-D by Dan Cole "Pipeshader"

is The Very Rev. Monsignor William A. Carr. The parish project coordinator is John McCulla. For information: 800/397-3103; <www.Buzardorgans.com>.

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