

Campbellsville University, where he teaches courses in piano, organ, and musicology, and has been a member of the faculty since 1982. He has presented concerts as pianist and organist throughout the United States, in Europe, and in Asia, including premieres of works by the Dutch composers Hans Osieck, Johan van Kempen, and Kees Weggelaar, and the American composers Tom Johnson and James W. Moore. Dr. Roberts was a guest speaker at the 2002 annual conference of the Music Teachers National Association in Cincinnati, where he spoke on the topic "Bridging the Gap: Tools and Incentives for Pianists Turned Organists." He is the author of articles and reviews in British, Dutch, and American journals, and co-author with Maurice Hinson of *The Piano in Chamber Ensemble*, 2nd Edition, published in 2006. Roberts has served as a visiting professor at the French Piano Institute in Paris and at Shanghai Normal University, and is currently organist at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Louisville. He has served as president of three professional organizations, including the Kentucky Music Teachers Association, which granted him its 2005 Distinguished Service Award.



Carl B. Staplin

Carl B. Staplin, Ph.D., AAGO, Professor Emeritus of Organ and Church Music, Drake University, has been commissioned by the Iowa Choral Directors Association (ICDA) and the Iowa Composers Forum (ICF) to compose a choral work for a performance on July 30. It will be premiered at the ICDA annual convention to be held at Northern Iowa Area Community College. The work will be a *Fantasia on French Noels*. Dr. Robert Gieber, Professor Emeritus of French at Simpson College, translated directly from the original French texts dating from the 15th to the 18th century. French sources included the National Library of Paris, France, and various historical volumes. This is considered the first time that the original French words have been translated into English. Some of the melodies may sound familiar, but typically modern English texts have been employed rather than a literal translation. Two collaborations of Staplin and Gieber have already been published by Shawnee Press.

Joe Utterback's *Missa Jazzis* was premiered by the Oratorio Choir of the First Congregational Church of Stratford, Connecticut, conducted by David Wehr. Musicians included a 60-voice choir, trumpeter, tenor and soprano soloists, and the composer at the piano. The jazz Mass opening numbers—Introit, Kyrie, and Sanctus—feature jazz harmonies. The Gloria, with a 12-bar blues setting, involves tenor and trumpet in alternating solos and duets swinging around the chorus. A *Lacrimosa*, *Agnus Dei*, and a closing up-tempo *Alleluia* complete the Mass, available from Jazzmuze, Inc. Score samples may be found on line at <www.jazzmuze.com>. The work is available as a complete Mass or by individual movements. For information: 732/747-5227.

Nunc Dimittis

Robert E. Fort, Jr. died on January 29 in DeLand, Florida. A native of Ocala, Florida, he was a graduate of the University of Florida, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and the Eastman School of Music, where he studied with David Craighead. He earned a doctor of sacred music degree from the School of Music of Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where he studied with Vernon deTar. Dr. Fort taught at Coker College in Hartsville, South Carolina, and at Stetson University, and was a lifelong church musician, serving most recently as organist-choirmaster at the First Presbyterian Church in DeLand. Active in the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, he was an honorary lifetime member and had served as its president; he also served as dean of the Central Florida AGO chapter and was a member of the Hymn Society and the American Choral Directors Association. Dr. Fort wrote widely on church music topics and led workshops and hymn festivals throughout the country. Robert Fort is survived by his wife of 49 years, Patricia Mims Fort, and his children, Robert Fort III and Carolyn Fort.

Timothy J. Oliver died in Frankfort, Kentucky on January 5. He was 71. Born in Cincinnati, he earned a bachelor's degree from San Diego State College and subsequently studied organ with Arnold Blackburn at the University of Kentucky, where he earned a master of music degree. Active in the Lexington, Kentucky AGO chapter, Oliver initiated and for many years maintained the chapter's organ academy; he had also been a member of the music and liturgy commission of the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington, helping to plan and rehearse the 1995 diocesan centennial service. Timothy Oliver had served as organist at Midway Presbyterian Church, following his retirement as organist-choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Versailles, establishing a children's and a handbell choir, and leading the renovation of the

church's Pilcher organ; he also served at Church of the Ascension in Frankfort. He twice directed the Woodford Community Choir and was a member of the Association of Anglican Musicians and the Organ Historical Society. Timothy Oliver is survived by many friends and several cousins.



Michel Pinte at the console of the Walcker organ at the Riga Cathedral in Latvia (which had been inaugurated by Eugène Gigout), where he gave a concert on August 29, 2007

French organist **Michel Pinte** died of a heart attack in Malaga, Spain, on October 21, 2008. Born on July 21, 1936 in Etrepagny (Eure, in Normandy), he was buried in the nearby cemetery in Doudeauville-en-Vexin. A Requiem Mass was celebrated in his memory on November 8, 2008, at the Saint-Augustin church in Paris, where he had served as organist for 29 years.

Michel Pinte began to play the organ for Masses at the parish church in his home town at the age of ten. Two years later, he began organ lessons in Rouen with Jules Lambert (substituting for him) and then with Marcel Lanquetuit. In 1956, during his military service, he served as organist at the Saint-Philippe cathedral in Algiers. When he returned to Paris in 1962, he studied piano with Irène Baume-Psichari, harmony with Yves Margat, Gregorian chant with Henri Potiron at the Institut grégorien, and organ with Jean Langlais at the Schola Cantorum, where he received his diploma in virtuosic organ interpretation and improvisation in 1964. He also studied later with Marie-Madeleine Durflé-Chevalier, Marie-Louise Girod, and Suzanne Chaisemartin.

After substituting at numerous churches (notably in Paris at Notre-Dame-de-Grâce in Passy and on the choir organs at Saint-Augustin and the Versailles cathedral), in 1968 Pinte was named titular of the Cavallé-Coll/Mutin choir organ at the Saint-Augustin church in Paris. In 1973, he requested Victor Gonzalez to enlarge this organ to 32 stops with six adjustable pistons, enabling him to play the entire repertory comfortably. He later entrusted the maintenance of this organ to Bernard Dargassies. In 1979, Michel Pinte also assisted Suzanne Chaisemartin on the 1868 Barker/Cavallé-Coll/Mutin Grand Orgue (III/53) and was appointed as her co-titular in 1990. He retired in June 1997, and spent his final years in Marbella, Spain (Malaga).

During his retirement, Michel Pinte performed even more concerts in Europe and the United States. In Spain, he performed for the organ weeks in Grenada in 1999 and in Madrid in 2000, and at the Palau de la Música in Valencia in 2007 (for more details, see <www.musimem.com>). Audiences appreciated his eclectic programs that highlighted nineteenth and twentieth-century repertory (notably works by Demessieux, Vierne, and Widor as well as lesser-known works) and were

captivated by his final brilliant improvisation on a well-known theme.

His solid technique and his open spirit allowed him to express himself easily and freely, to fully share his vital love of music with others. To cite one example, those who attended his concert at St. John's Church in Washington, D.C. on November 13, 1986, will never forget his stunning improvisation on *America the Beautiful*. This cultural ambassador will long be remembered for his vast artistic knowledge, his creative imagination, and his good sense of humor.

—Carolyn Shuster Fournier
Paris, France

Travis R. Powell, age 36, died on January 19 in Carey, Ohio. A student of Donald MacDonald, he earned a bachelor of church music degree from Westminster Choir College, and a master of sacred music degree from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, where he was a student of Robert Anderson. Powell was director of music-organist at the Basilica and National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation in Carey, Ohio, where he directed the shrine chorale and a children's choir and played over 650 Masses a year. He also taught general music at Our Lady of Consolation School and was artistic director of the Carey Ecumenical Choir; he had previously served at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church and Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe Cathedral in Dallas. He was a member of the American Guild of Organists, National Association of Pastoral Musicians, Organ Historical Society, American Choral Directors Association, Choristers Guild, and the Conference of Roman Catholic Cathedral Musicians.

Robert Wendell Robe died on January 24 in Tampa, Florida. He was 79. Born July 8, 1929, in Zanesville, Ohio, he attended Meredith College in Zanesville and Capitol University. A church musician for 64 years, he began his musical career as organist for St. Luke's Lutheran Church and played for "The Coffee Club," a local radio program. He held organist positions at Webb City Presbyterian Church, New Haven Presbyterian Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma, Forest Hills Presbyterian and Wellspring United Methodist churches, both in Tampa, Florida, and until last year at the Kirk of Dunedin Community Church in Dunedin, Florida. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Mary Robe, two daughters and three sisters.

Mary Landon Russell died November 20, 2008, in Montoursville, Pennsylvania, at age 95. She attended Dickinson Junior College and in 1936 earned a bachelor of music degree from Susquehanna University. In 1957 she earned a master of arts degree from Pennsylvania State University, and did further study at the Chautauqua Institution School of Music, the Juilliard School, and the Eastman School of Music. She taught at Lycoming College from 1936 until her retirement in 1978, when she was named associate professor of music emerita and continued as a part-time piano teacher there for another twenty years.

Mrs. Russell was a member of numerous professional organizations, including the American Guild of Organists, of which she was a past dean of the Williamsport chapter, the Williamsport Music Club, and the National and Pennsylvania Federations of Music Clubs. She was also a 50-year member and honorary regent of the Lycoming Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, and was awarded the Martha Washington Medal from the Tiedaghton Chapter (Sons of the American Revolution) for her "History of the Music of Williamsport, Pennsylvania." She is listed in *Outstanding Educators of America*; during her 50th year of teaching at Lycoming College, the school's Alumni Association established the Mary Landon Russell Applied Music Fund, which provides financial aid to musically gifted students. Mrs. Russell frequently served as organist at Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church, and in other area churches.

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