



Stephen Tharp

Stephen Tharp is featured on a new CD, *Hymns—Old and New*, recorded on the Opus 820 Skinner organ built in 1931 for Our Lady Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, Ohio. The program consists of 22 simple hymn tunes played as they might be at Mass, with harmonizations and interludes improvised during the recording. There is no singing on this CD; JAV 162; <www.pipeorgancds.com>.



Robert J. Vaughan

The Reuter Organ Company announces the retirement of **Robert J. Vaughan** as director of production and senior engineer. After graduating with a degree in organ performance from Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, Vaughan returned to Holdrege, Nebraska, to begin employment at the Vaughan Music Company, his family's music store. He later joined the Reuter firm as a draftsman in 1969.

His long tenure with the company embraces a wide range of experience in areas of engineering and production. His work reflects a keen interest in research and design, including the development of the electro-pneumatic slider chest now in use at Reuter, and the company's detailed library of AutoCAD design archives. He has been responsible for the layout of several hundred Reuter organs.

Robert Vaughan is a Fellow member of the American Institute of Organbuilders and has served on the board as both vice president and president pro-tem. He has also served as dean of the Lawrence/Baldwin AGO chapter.

—Ronald Krebs

Nunc Dimittis



Fenner Douglass

Fenner Douglass died April 5 at Moorings Park in Naples, Florida. Douglass studied organ with Arthur Poister at Oberlin College, the beginning of a long relationship with the school. After earning a B.A. in 1942 and B.Mus. and M.M. in 1949, he joined the Oberlin faculty, where he remained until 1974. He then became university organist and professor at Duke University, where he had been consultant for the installation of the large Flentrop organ in the Gothic chapel.

Performer, teacher, and scholar, Douglass was a pioneer in the historical performance movement and pursued scholarly interests that focused on the organ traditions of France. His first book, *The Language of the Classical French Organ* (Yale University Press, 1969), became the standard reference work for organ music of the French baroque period; a revised edition was issued in paperback in 1995. Douglass also researched the work of Aristide Cavaillé-Coll. He obtained most of the personal documents, correspondence, and contracts of Cavaillé-Coll, which became the basis for a two-volume work of 1,534 pages, *Cavaillé-Coll and the Musicians* (Sunbury Press, 1980). In 1999, Yale University Press produced a condensed and revised edition of the work, titled *Cavaillé-Coll and the French Romantic Tradition*. Douglass was also the editor of a two-volume work published by the Westfield Center honoring the organ builder Charles Fisk.

In recognition of Fenner Douglass's scholarly contributions, William Peterson and Lawrence Archbold dedicated to him their book, *French Organ Music from the Revolution to Franck and Widor* (University of Rochester Press, 1995). Douglass delivered papers at numerous Westfield conferences. In 2001, Oberlin College awarded him with an honorary doctorate. Throughout his career, Douglass was a proponent of organ building based on historical traditions. He worked as a consultant on many organ projects,

including instruments by Dirk Flentrop and Charles Fisk.

Russell Edward Freeman died November 26, 2007 in Greenville, North Carolina at the age of 61. A member of the Wilmington AGO chapter, Freeman was the music director at several churches, including St. George's Episcopal Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia; Christ Episcopal Church, Capitol Hill; St. David's Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C.; and St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Capitol Hill.

Edith L. Wagner Meier, 86, died February 6 in Davenport, Iowa. She studied piano as a child, and became the organist at Zion Lutheran Church in Davenport at age 13, serving for 61 years. She was also Zion's director of music for over 35 years. She graduated from Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, where she majored in organ and piano. Active in the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, the AGO, and the Fine Arts Club in the Quad Cities, Ms. Meier gave many performances and was honored with a concert in 2005, which included works composed in her honor. Edith Meier is survived by four daughters, nine grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, two sisters, and a brother.

John Howard Wilson died October 30, 2007, at age 67 in Long Beach, California. He worked for the Lewis & Hitchcock organbuilding firm for four years before going into partnership with Robert Pierce. The Pierce-Wilson organbuilding firm moved to New York City, where they installed a four-manual pipe organ in Virgil Fox's home in Englewood, New Jersey. In 1965, Wilson authored the *Handbook of Scaling Information for Organ Designers* with Guy Henderson; this collaboration resulted in the formation of the Henderson & Wilson Company, which rebuilt and expanded the 1887 Steere & Turner instrument at the Wooster School, Danbury, Connecticut, and maintained the organs at Lincoln Center in New York City. Beginning in 1978, the firm installed and tonally finished many Ruffatti organs; Wilson and Henderson moved to California in 1979 to install the Aeolian-Skinner and the Ruffatti organs in the Crystal Cathedral. They remained as curators of the instruments. In 2004, Wilson, Henderson, and Brian Sawyers began working on the Aeolian-Skinner and Schlicker organs at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Long Beach. Mr. Wilson was an avid collector of recordings, in particular those of Arturo Toscanini. He transferred many of Virgil Fox's LP recordings to CD, for release in the OrganArts Legacy series.

Here & There

Bärenreiter announces new releases of organ works. Alexandre Guilmant, *Selected Organ Works*, Volume V, edited by Wolf Kalipp with Hans Uwe Hielscher (BA 9252, €39.95), includes concert and character pieces, of moderate difficulty and suitable for both church and concert performance. Karl Hoyer, *Chorale Preludes*, op. 57, volume II, edited by Martin Weyer (BA 9217, €27.95), is a collection of chorale preludes from the period between late Romanticism to the beginnings of the Organ Reform movement. *German Organ and Keyboard Music from Bach's Period*, edited by Siegbert Rampe (BA 9255, €34.95), is a collection of first editions by composers from Bach's time, including the original version of Bach's *Tocatta in F major*, based on the sole source, the Bach P803 manuscript in the Berlin State Library. The

volume also includes works by Gerber, Graubner, Molter, Niedt, Roemhildt, and Scheibe. For information: <www.baerenreiter.com>.

The Church Music Association of America has announced the publication of *The Parish Book of Chant*, hardbound, 192 pages, \$14. Compiled and typeset by Richard Rice with the assistance of the CMAA, the book contains a complete order of Mass for both the Ordinary form of the Roman Rite and the Extraordinary form, in side-by-side Latin and English. The Ordos include the sung responses of the people and celebrant.

There is a large Kyriale (Kyrie, Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei) and four full Credos. The book collects 71 Latin chants, with English translations, that are for occasional use in Mass in various seasons of the year, such as hymns for Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, as well as Marian hymns and chants for funerals and other occasions.

All music is set on four-line staves with newly typeset neumes that make the music clear for singing. The music also includes the traditional Solesmes markings to assist in rhythmic understanding and interpretation, and a seven-page tutorial on singing chant. Additional features include the order of service for Benediction, Gospel canticles, litanies, and Alleluias for both forms. For information: <www.musicasacra.com>.

JAV Recordings announces the release of *Centennial Celebration* (JAV 702, \$20), in honor of the 100th anniversary of the Washington National Cathedral, whose foundation stone was laid on September 29, 1907. Edgar Priest, first organist and choirmaster for the cathedral, led the music on that day. This recording presents his compositions and those of others who have written a history of cathedral music: Vaughan Williams, Major, Sowerby, Dirksen, Callaway, McCarthy, and Neswick. For information: <www.pipeorgancds.com>.

Foley-Baker, Inc. of Tolland, Connecticut shipped the final portion of the Duke Chapel Aeolian organ back to the Durham, North Carolina university on May 12. The 102-rank instrument was the second largest ever built by the Garfield, New Jersey factory and one of the last before the 1932 buyout by Skinner of Boston. Work began in February of last year when every part of Opus 1785 was removed to the organ was totally reconditioned and returned in sections, starting last July with reinstallation of the elaborate blowing plant and its many associated bellows and ducts. The Choir was next, followed by the Swell, Great and Pedal. The new replica console and electronic switching system has been handled by Richard Houghten of Milan, Michigan, and was installed during March of this year. Connecticut-based Broome & Co. reconditioned all the reeds. Tonal regulation will occur this summer. For information: 800/621-2624; <www.foleybaker.com>.

Juget-Sinclair Organbuilders, Montreal, is currently finishing the last in a series of five practice instruments, two of which were destined for the organ departments of academic institutions. These organs were built for 1) Richard Webster and Bart Dahlstrom's residence in Boston; 2) Hideyuki Kobayashi's residence in Tokyo; 3) the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas; 4) Ueno Gakuen College, Tokyo; and 5) Joe Srednicki's residence in Boston. The finishing touches are now being put on the Srednicki instrument. Hereafter, work begins on the two-manual/20-stop instrument for St. Mark's Episcopal Church, St. Louis, Missouri. For information: <www.juget-sinclair.com>.

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