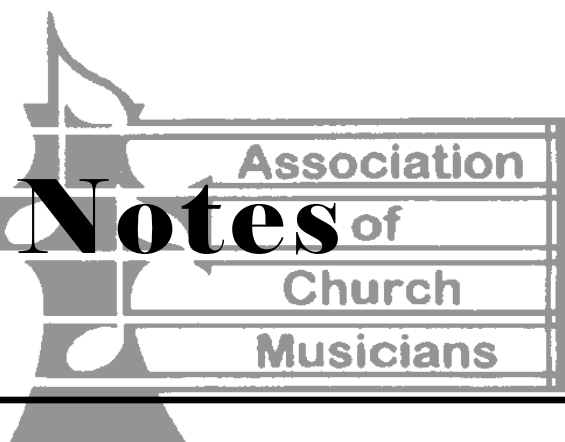


# Church Music Notes

MARCH 2009



## Join us for the Second Annual ACM Breakfast at Fresco & Madison Symphony Orchestra Community Hymn Sing on Saturday, March 7!

Join your ACM friends and colleagues for a very special Saturday morning. We will gather for breakfast at Fresco Restaurant on Saturday, March 7, at 9:00am. Fresco, located atop the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art, is Madison's only rooftop restaurant! Everyone attending last year's breakfast event there enjoyed a wonderful time with great food and pleasant atmosphere. The breakfast menu will include made-to-order omelets with all the breakfast side trimmings as well. After breakfast, we will travel only steps away to Overture Hall to enjoy the Madison Symphony Community Hymn Sing at 11:00am with ACM member Sam Hutchison on the Overture Center Organ (pictured below). The hymn sing is free and the cost for breakfast is only \$15 per person – (ACM is picking up part of the tab) - guests are welcome, too! Please plan to attend this special day to enjoy the company of your fellow church musicians in the Madison area. **Seating is limited, so please make your reservations by Tuesday morning, March 3 by e-mail to [ACM@MadisonACM.org](mailto:ACM@MadisonACM.org)** (payment can be made when you arrive). All ACM members are welcome and encouraged to attend and guests are welcome as well.

The breakfast menu at Fresco will include freshly brewed coffee, assorted juices, made to order omelets with ham, cheeses and fresh, seasonal vegetables, Neuske's applewood smoked bacon & apple cinnamon sausage links, roasted new potatoes with fresh rosemary, assorted pastries, muffins and croissants served with whipped butter, wildflower honey and preserves, and seasonal market-fresh fruits and berries.



## AGO's 2009 Region VI Convention will be "Pipes on the Plains"

Wichita, Kansas is a wonderful city, with a wealth of good organs; and the committee for this year's Region VI Convention has built up a great program, filled with excellent performers and clinicians from Region VI and beyond! Besides solo organ recitals, there will be both choral music with organ, and programs featuring the organ with other instruments. Liturgies will include a festival Convocation service, as well as Vespers, Compline, and Gospel worship. All in all, it promises to be a week filled with exciting opportunities. So mark June 15-18, 2009 on your calendar, and join your colleagues in concluding the International Year of the Organ with "Pipes on the Plains!"

## Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

Think Spring!

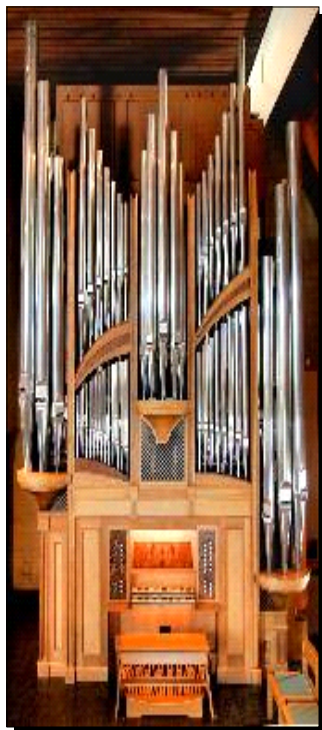
Think Bach's birthday!

On **Saturday, March 21**, young pianists, ages 11-16, will have an opportunity to meet the King of Instruments, the pipe organ! This event, entitled Pedals, Pipes & Pizza, is being sponsored by the Association of Church Musicians which includes the Madison Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Pedals, Pipes & Pizza will begin at 8:30 a.m. at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, 5700 Pheasant Hill Road, Monona. The opening session will feature video presentations and introductory remarks. Afterwards students will be able to see, hear, and play the Rosales Parsons pipe organ (pictured above). Afterwards, students will travel to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 4011 Major Avenue, Madison, to see, hear, and play their pipe organ. Lake Edge Lutheran Church, 4032 Monona Drive, Madison, will be the final stop on our tour. A delicious pizza lunch will be served at noon. Pedals, Pipes & Pizza will conclude by 3:30 p.m. Piano students, ages 11-16, who would like to take part in Pedals, Pipes & Pizza can contact John Krueger (phone 608.249.0679, e-mail [j.krueger@att.net](mailto:j.krueger@att.net)). Please see the registration form included in this newsletter, or print one from our website at [www.MadisonACM.org](http://www.MadisonACM.org).

Pedals, Pipes & Pizza is free to all participants.

## Positions Open

For current listings and those from previous newsletters, check our website: [www.MadisonACM.org](http://www.MadisonACM.org)



## President's Letter

Every day we are reminded in multiple ways of our society's current economic situation. We hear of cutbacks, closings, plummeting markets, foreclosures, tight credit, and more. The list seems endless. As church musicians, the situation becomes intensely personal as congregation members downsize their monetary pledges and church budgets tighten. (Were budgets ever loose?) Your position or that of an associate may be reduced or eliminated. Your budget for purchase of choral music may take a big hit.

What to do? As a start, please read "The Dean's Chatterbox... Tough Choices in Tough Times," a thoughtful and insightful article by Deborah Gemma reprinted in this newsletter. Note especially her statement that "even more important than dealing with dollars is maintaining a healthy vision and perspective of our ministries and missions during hard times." Next, evaluate your situation and your commitment. Then, share both your problems and your ideas with fellow ACM members. If you have a problem, another member may have a solution. If you have a creative idea for battling economic woes, it might be the perfect answer for a fellow member's problem. So, please communicate. Send me questions as well as answers. We can share them via this newsletter.

Finally, pray. And remember that "the economy can never take away our talents, our joy in music, or our ability to share that gift with others."

Blessings, John

John R. Krueger, 422 Maple Avenue, Madison, WI 53704, 608-249-0679, [j.krueger@att.net](mailto:j.krueger@att.net)

## ACM Board of Directors Announces Annual Meeting

The annual business meeting of the Association of Church Musicians will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2009. The business meeting will take place aboard a Betty Lou yacht as we cruise Lake Monona. Election of officers and board members for terms beginning in July, 2009, will be held. The two hour cruise is scheduled to begin at 2:00 p.m. Plan now to attend. The April edition of Church Music Notes will contain details for this event.

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Church Music Notes is the newsletter of the  
Association of Church Musicians, Madison Chapters of Choristers

## Keep in Touch...

Send submissions for

**Church Music Notes** to:

Linda Warren

P.O. Box 1611, Madison, WI 53701-1611

or by e-mail to [linda.warren@tds.net](mailto:linda.warren@tds.net)

Deadline for newsletter submissions is March 15 for the April issue.

Other correspondence should be sent to:  
ACM, P. O. Box 5321, Madison, WI 53705



### Substitute list coordinators and registrars

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608-824-9068  
[linda.warren@tds.net](mailto:linda.warren@tds.net)

**Chaplain**, Pastor David Susan  
Immanuel Lutheran Church,  
Madison (retired)  
608-246-4216

[www.MadisonACM.org](http://www.MadisonACM.org)  
[ACM@MadisonACM.org](mailto:ACM@MadisonACM.org)

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#### Past President

Mark Bloedow 608-271-6633

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Madison

## Report from the Nominating Committee

The nominating committee reports the following slate of candidates for election to office in the Association of Church Musicians for the year beginning in July 2009.

President and AGO Dean: Mark Brampton Smith

Vice-President and AGO Sub-dean: Jonathan Orwig

Secretary: Ann Uresk Herr

Treasurer: Charles Thomley

Board Member at Large: Audre Kurowski (3 year term to replace Wayne Duddleston whose term expires)

Board Member at Large: Max Yount (2 year term to replace Jonathan Orwig who is a candidate for Vice-President)

Election of officers will be held at the ACM annual meeting on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Dennis Douglas (Chair), Ken Sosinski, and Linda Krueger comprised the nominating committee. Thank you to all candidates for your willingness to serve. Thank you to members of the nominating committee for your insight and your work.

## 2009 Pipe Organ Encounters

A Pipe Organ Encounter is a 4-5 day regional event organized by a local AGO chapter under the sponsorship of the national organization. It introduces teenagers and young adults to the world of the pipe organ.

Pipe Organ Encounters provide individual and group instruction in the basic rudiments of pipe organ technique and service playing, give a general overview of organ literature, history, and related topics, expose the participants to various concepts and examples of pipe organ construction and design, offer opportunities to participate in ecumenical worship, so as to experience the role of the sacred musician, and provide an invaluable opportunity for young musician to meet others with similar interests.

Seven Pipe Organ Encounters will be offered this summer. The closest will be at Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL, on June 14-19. For complete information see the Fox Valley Chapter website: [www.foxvalleyago.org](http://www.foxvalleyago.org) or e-mail [dalincoln@comcast.net](mailto:dalincoln@comcast.net). Early registration discount ends April 1.

The South Dakota Chapter will host a POE at Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD, July 12-17. E-mail [mmschempp@sio.midco.net](mailto:mmschempp@sio.midco.net). Early registration discount ends May 15. The Greater Kansas City Chapter will host a POE at the University of Missouri-Kansas, Kansas City, MO, on June 21-26. See the website [www.kcago.com](http://www.kcago.com) or e-mail [dittoj@umkc.edu](mailto:dittoj@umkc.edu) for more information. A complete list is available at [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org) and on page 35 of the February issue of The American Organist. An 11 minute YouTube video entitled "Close Encounters" is available through the AGO website [www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org). Click on "Education" and then "Pipe Organ Encounters." Be sure to check into scholarships.



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## Church Music Notes

MARCH 2009 — VOLUME 26, ISSUE 7

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[www.madisonacm.org](http://www.madisonacm.org)

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Thank you to everyone who participated in the hymn festival on February 15 at Asbury United Methodist Church. Your hard work was greatly appreciated by all!



Conductors and organists for the choirs (pictured at right and below) were ACM members (l-r) Mark Bloedow, Charles Thomley, Sonja Kremer, Jonathan Orwig and Mark Brampton Smith.



The Chime Choir was conducted by Mark Bloedow and accompanied by Linda Warren on celtic harp.



Pictured above is Brassworks, a group which accompanied hymns and anthems and also contributed solo instrumental works to the program.

# PEDALS, PIPES, AND PIZZA

Association of Church Musicians and Madison Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## Registration Form

Saturday, March 21, 2009

Return form to: John Krueger, 422 Maple Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

Call or e-mail with questions: 608-249-0679, j.krueger@att.net

NAME OF STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AGE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF YEARS OF PIANO STUDY \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT(S) NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PIANO TEACHER \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

# THE DEAN'S CHATTERVOX . . . TOUGH CHOICES IN TOUGH TIMES

Deborah Gemma

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In many churches and institutions, the last quarter of the year is the time for budget preparation. In these tough economic times, many non-profits face dwindling funds and hard choices. How do we keep our programs and our positions healthy in this environment?

When it comes to dealing with dollars, we have two paths to pursue: increase revenue and cut expenses. Perhaps we can think of some creative ways to supplement our operating budget funds: present a benefit concert or sell a piano that is never used. I know of a church where Christmas and Easter memorial gifts can be given not only for flowers but for the hiring of instrumentalists. Cutting expenses may be inevitable. We can dig deeper in our current choral libraries or swap anthems with a colleague instead of purchasing new music. There may be hidden gems in an anthology or out-of-the-way file cabinet that we haven't looked at in a while. One of our local organ technicians has given practical tips about cutting the expense of organ maintenance and tuning, such as tuning in warmer months, which require less heat, or doing partial tunings, as is often done in

Europe. Maybe an organist will hire a single trumpet player instead of a brass quintet, or perhaps, the church will choose to have a spoken worship service when its musician is on vacation.

Even more important than dealing with dollars is maintaining a healthy vision and perspective of our ministries and missions during hard times. It is crucial that we can articulate what our work is and why it is important. The more clearly we communicate to others how our work as musicians furthers the mission of our church or institution, the less likely our work will be viewed as a luxury that can be cut. We need to stay in touch with the economic reality of our situation: if the church has a leaky roof and no money for fuel, don't insist that purchasing a harpsichord is essential in your budget! Economic duress cannot become an excuse for unethical behavior. Borrowing music is thrifty; photocopying it is illegal. Choosing to do without the services of extra musicians is an unfortunate but legitimate sacrifice; expecting an incumbent musician to increase duties and lower compensation without re-negotiating is unfair.

We would be wise to engage in periodic self-examination. It is a sad but true situation that sometimes financial constraints are used as an excuse to cut or eliminate positions to avoid dealing with other underlying conflict or stress. Dust off your contract and see if it is still up to date, and if you are meeting all expectations. Are you still as cheerful, prompt, and willing to consider new ways of collaborating in your job as you were when you were new to the position? Are you involved in any conflict? If we have been honest with ourselves and renewed our commitment to doing our best work, we can stand resolute in expecting to be treated fairly and professionally.

The economy may hamper our ability to do "business as usual," but with common sense and thoughtfulness we can hope to minimize its impact. The economy can never take away our talents, our joy in music, or our ability to share that gift with others.

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**Deborah Gemma** is dean of the Greater Hartford Chapter. A graduate of the Hartt School of Music, Yale School of Music, and the Institute of Sacred Music, she serves as minister of music at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Manchester, Conn.



**American  
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