



# The Bellows

*The Newsletter of the Greater Lansing Chapter  
American Guild of Organists*



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## MARCEL DUPRÉ

# STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Lansing Chapter's March event is a performance of Marcel Dupre's, "Stations of the Cross". Our own Steven Lange will perform this great work on Palm Sunday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Paul's Episcopal Church, downtown Lansing, corner of W. Ottawa and Seymour streets. Nancy Lange will read the poetry by Paul Claudel that served as inspiration for Dupre's improvisations. There will also be slides of Passion/Stations of the Cross shown during the playing of each station.

### Background

The Dupré *Stations of the Cross* had its beginnings with the suggestion of Madame Madeleine Renaud-Thévenet, a professor at the Brussels Conservatory. She proposed to read Paul Claudel's, poem *Le Chemin de la Croix* (Stations of the Cross) stanza by stanza, with Dupré improvising on the words just read. The success of a trial run at St. Sulpice in 1931 resulted in the program being repeated at the Brussels Conservatory the following year. Following the success of that program, the Duprés' (a husband and wife team such as our own performance will feature!) decided that the work should be written down. The "official" Paris premiere was given the following year at the Trocadero Concert Hall.

In preparation for the original program, Marcel had done research into the sacred music of previous centuries. In examining these works he discovered various motives used by other composers in music revolving around the Passion accounts and in the Bach cantatas. Many of these figures received treatment or revision according to Dupré's musical language and appear in his own "Passion Account," *The Stations of the Cross*.

For those whose holdings include past copies of *The Diapason*, there is a translation of the Claudel poem by Dr. J. Eric Swenson in one of the 1972 editions. The rest of us will need to attend the concert on March 25.

A NICOLAS MEDTNER

LE CHEMIN DE LA CROIX

I<sup>ère</sup> STATION

JÉSUS EST CONDAMNÉ A

Maestoso - 42 a J

R: Trompette 8

P: Fonde 8

Pl: Basso 16-8

# Dean's Message...

by Michael Crouch

For a small chapter we have had a very good year. This is the result of many people who have worked very hard over the last two years. First there is the planning and then there is the execution. Both of these processes are every time consuming, and require many bodies. We have one more program and a banquet and the year will be over.

We (the board) have started planning next year and I must say we have some big plans. As soon as we have the year all planned out, **YOU** will be the first to know. I can tell you this, we will be having a fund raiser in November and we will really need lots of help. I do hope all of you will do your part.

I need to share with you that of all my years of serving on AGO boards, I have never, and I mean never seen a board work so hard. We have never had less than six out of nine at a board meeting and we have never canceled one meeting. We all have become friends and work as a team.

A very special thanks to Lee Hendrickson for all of his help with the finances and our "By-laws" project. Finally after many years and the hard work of so many people, the bylaws are a done deal. Thank you for returning the form so quickly. Let us hope this does not have to be done again for a very long time.

# The Chaplain's Stop

by Rev. Lloyd Hall, Jr.

Well, just in time for Lent and Easter we have the "revelation" of "The Lost Tomb of Jesus". I confess that I am quite skeptical about this especially since this important news comes right at the beginning of Lent and is tied to a book and a documentary film. I don't know where this exploration and attendant conversation will go but my faith in God is not shattered and I do not fear truth.

Among the truths — and no one knows this better than musicians — is that faith has generated more than its proportionate share of great art. While evil has been (and is being) done in the name of religion, the underlying stability,

compassion, and beauty of God has been always positive.

As the battle heats up on this most recent assault on orthodox Christianity, it is more important than ever that we, who have in our care the great themes and traditions of the faith, reach deep into that well of truth; letting the most profound realities of the divine presence raise up the souls of God's people. We should each engage this challenge, this "conversation", with wisdom and equanimity. As that "conversation" progresses, we are still blessed with the capacity to convey beauty and peace as it is only known in God — and as it has been revealed in Christ for 2,000 years.

March 2007 — p. 2

# Calendarium

## March 18

4:00p

St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth  
Buxtehude Bash with Scott Hyslop, organ;  
Martha Folts, harpsichord; and David  
Troiano, tenor.

## March 23

7:30p

First Presbyterian Church,  
1669 W. Maple, Birmingham  
"Sing Me to Heaven." A wide-ranging  
program by the Birmingham-First Cham-  
ber Choir. Reception following. Free will  
offering. 248-644-2040 for more info.

## March 25

4:00p

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
Stations of the Cross by Marcel Dupré  
with poetry and slides; Steve Lange,  
organist

## April 6

7:00p

Christ Church Grosse Pointe, 61 Grosse  
Pointe Blvd., Grosse Pointe Farms  
Bach, St. Matthew Passion. Christ  
Church Chorale, Boy's Choir, Orchestra.  
313-885-4841 for ticket information

## April 10

7:30p

Plymouth Congregational Church,  
2001 E. Grand River Ave., Lansing State  
Singers and Women's Chamber Ensemble

## April 15

4:00p

First Presbyterian Church, 510 W. Ottawa  
St., Lansing  
MSU Children's Choir

## April 23

3:00p

Grace Lutheran Church  
"The English Hymnal — A Hundred  
Years On" presented by Ben Baldus and  
Mano Hardies

## April 24

7:30p

Martin Luther Chapel, 444 Abbott Rd.,  
East Lansing  
MSU Collegiate Choir & Chamber Choir

# Looking for a change?

*The chapter has received notice of these open positions in our area.*

## **First Church of Christ, Scientist 416 Wildwood Ave. at Glick Hwy., Jackson, MI**

is looking for a regular Sunday Organist to begin as soon as possible. The church service is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Organist must be at the Church by 9:30 to practice with the Soloist. The organ is a 3-manual, 35 Bank, 1965 Möller in excellent condition. Duties include 3 hymns, prelude, an offertory and postlude, selections by the organist, and also accompanying the Soloist with a selection chosen by the Music Committee. Mileage will be paid, and the salary is negotiable according to experience. Interested candidates should call **(734) 475-7290** or e-mail: **mariansprague784@hotmail.com**, as

soon as possible because the current Organist's contract ends October 31, 2006 as she is retiring.

## **Christ Episcopal Church 120 Goodhue St. Owosso, MI 48867**

Church Musician — Church seeks musician to accompany congregational singing on piano or Allen organ. Duties include leading choirs, playing preludes and postludes, and coordination music with the Rector. Contact: **The Rev. Heather Barta  
989 723 2495  
heatherbarta@eastmich.org  
www.eastmich.org/~ccowosso**

## **Baroque Performance Practice with Steven Egler**

*by Stephanie Gewirtz*

Steven Egler, professor of organ at Central Michigan University, conducted a workshop on Tuesday, February 20 at First United Methodist Church. The workshop dealt with keyboard practice during the Baroque period. His discussion dealt more specifically with the performance practice of the "Eight Short Preludes and Fugues" by J.S. Bach.

Dr. Egler began the workshop with a discussion focusing on five points of interest. These included registration, articulation, pedaling, fingering and general performance practice of Bach's keyboard music. Dr. Egler provided a list of refer-

ences for each of these areas.

Next, members of the guild played five of the eight preludes and fugues. Following each performance, Dr. Egler gave suggestions for registration, articulation and phrasing. He was very positive with his comments and suggestions.

Prior to the presentation a fine supper was enjoyed. Approximately twenty people attended the dinner and enjoyed fellowship with ten more joining for the program. Many thanks to all who assisted with the dinner and played for the program. Your contribution helped make for a very successful evening.

# Recent Recitals

*by Julia Walton*

## ***Lynne Davis in Concert***

On Sunday afternoon, February 11, 2007, many of us were fortunate to hear Lynne Davis play the dedicatory recital on the newly rebuilt organ at the Okemos Community Church. This original Wicks Organ, finely renovated by Rick Swanson, is now comprised of 31 ranks with 1,883 pipes over two manuals and pedal.

Ms. Davis, an international concert organist and teacher, played a stunning recital, the compositions of which fully explored all the varied sounds of the organ. She opened her program with the vivacious Toccata (op. 53, #6) by Louis Vierne. Included in her recital was the Franck, Choral in a-minor, Litanies by Jehan Alain, and the Bach, Toccata and Fugue in d-minor (BWV 565), as well as several other French selections. She concluded her program with the opening Allegro from Widor's 6<sup>th</sup> Symphony. It was a pleasure to spend the afternoon in the presence of this very musical and gracious performer. She was obviously excited to be back in the area where she began her musical journey and the audience was pleased to welcome her home.

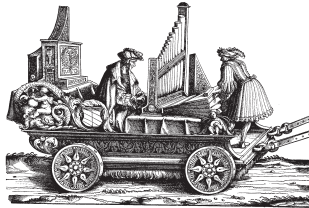
## ***Music at the Cathedral with David Higgs***

This past Sunday, March 4, 2007, David Higgs was presented as guest organist in the Series, Music at the Cathedral in Detroit.

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*continued from p. 3*

He was at his “artistic best”, playing a very compelling and exciting program, all from memory. He had short, interesting remarks to make about some of his selections; however he didn’t distract the listener with an abundance of chatter. He played a varied program, from the Bach Fantasia and Fugue in g-minor to the closing composition, Præludium und Fugue über BACH, by Franz Liszt. He also played one short encore — a little piece by Kittle, J. S. Bach’s last student. The small audience in attendance was appreciative of being in the presence of this musical giant!



## The Bellows

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*address correction requested*

REGION V

**AGO**  
Discovers  
Columbus  
2007  
June 25-28



Cynthia Adcock	Mary Preston
G. Dene Barnard	Marti Rideout
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Craig Cramer	Joy Schroeder
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Gary Garber	Timothy Smith
James Hildreth	Carole Terry
Robert Hobby	James Thomashower
Marilyn Keiser	Paul Thornock
Huw Lewis	Robert Trocchia
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