

HILBUS CHAPTER

THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

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May 28th Crawl to Three Organs in Montgomery County, Maryland; Potomac, Bethesda, and Rockville

9:45 – 11:00 AM Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church, 9222 Kentsdale Dr., Potomac, Md. 20854. Three manual electro-pneumatic organ designed by Guy Therien and built by Karl Wilhelm. Project finished fall of 2004.

11:15-12:30 PM PM Trinity Lutheran, 11200 Old Georgetown Rd. Rockville 20852. Electro-pneumatic organ of 1952 built originally for Pottstown, PA. Installed and rebuilt at Trinity in 1994 by the R.A. Daffer of Baltimore. Enlarged and revoiced by Nobscot Organ Works of Framingham, Mass. Dedicated April 14, 2002. 28 rks, two manuals and pedal.

12:45 PM Lunch at Hamburger Hamlet on the corner of Democracy Blvd. and Old Georgetown Road.

2:00- 3:30 PM Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda, 20817 Holtkamp tracker

Directions

From the Beltway (Rt. 495) proceed northwest on River Rd. (Exits 39 &40) to a right onto Bradley Blvd. and drive to Kentsdale Dr. Turn left onto Kentsdale . Our Lady of Mercy is located at the NW corner of Kentsdale and Bradley Blvd.

Continue east on Bradley Blvd. to Old Georgetown Rd.(Rt 187). Turn left and follow Old Georgetown north over the beltway and the 270 spur. Trinity Lutheran is about a half mile beyond the 270 spur on your left.

Go back to Bradley Blvd. Turn right (West). Bradley Hills Presbyterian will be on your right at 6601 Bradley Blvd.

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Dues: Due in October, Send \$10.00 to Secretary-Treasurer. (NOTE: Please make out checks to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

SATURDAY, APRIL 23RD CRAWL TO WESTMINSTER, MARYLAND

A report by Peter Crisafulli

Several Hilbus chapter members met for an enjoyable crawl in Westminster, and fortunately the predicted rain and thunderstorms held off until we were homeward bound. Our host for the day was Ted Dix, organist at St. Paul's United Church of Christ and adjunct professor of organ at McDaniel College, both in Westminster.

Our first stop was at St. Paul's UCC. The organ was built by Moeller in 1941, designed by Henry Baeker of the Wannemaker organ workshop, and dedicated by Virgil Fox. A few minor tonal alterations have been made over the years. The stop list is as follows:

GREAT: 16' Dulciana (CH), 8' Open Diapason, 8' Clarabel Flute, 8' Dulciana (CH), 4' Octave, 4' Dulciana (CH), 2 2/3' Twelfth, 2' Fifteenth, III Mixture (derived from 12th & 15th), Chimes.

CHOIR: 16' Dulciana (ext.), 8' Open Diapason, 8' Dulciana, 8' Concert Flute, 8' Unda Maris II (draws Dulciana & Flute Celeste), 8' Flute Celeste (full compass), 4' Rohrflote, 4' Dulciana (ext.), 2 2/3' Nazard (ext. Dul.), 2' Fifteenth (ext. Dul.), 8' Clarinet (Trivo; replaced original 8' Salicional), Tremulant. 8' Trompette-en-Chamade (TC - a more recent addition).

SWELL: 16' Rohrbourdon (ext.), 8' Open Diapason, 8' Chimney Flute, 8' Gamba, 8' Gamba Sharp (sic)(full compass), 4' Flute (ext.), 2 2/3' Nazard (ext.), 2' Piccolo (ext.), III Mixture (1950's replacement of original Vox Humana), 16' Bassoon (TC - from Oboe), 8' Trumpet (1970's or 80's replacement of original), 8' Oboe (1970's or 80's replacement of original), Tremulant.

PEDAL: 16' Open Diapason, 16' Bourdon, 16' Dulciana (CH), 16' Soft Flute (SW), 8' Octave (ext. 16' O.D.), 8' Flute (ext. Bdn), 8' Dulciana (CH), 4' Super Octave (ext. 16' O.D.), 16' Trombone (ext.), 8' Trumpet (SW), Chimes.

Full compliment of couplers.

Entire instrument enclosed: Great & Choir in one common enclosure on right side of gallery, Swell on the left.

After Ted Dix beautifully demonstrated the instrument, there was ample opportunity for anyone who wished to take it for a test drive. The instrument projects well from its gallery location, and has a wide dynamic range and several nice solo stops. The Trompette-en-Chamade curls hair at the console but is quite effective in the church.

Following a leisurely lunch at a local diner, we made our way up to nearby McDaniel College to check out two more instruments. First, we stopped briefly at Little Baker Chapel. The original organ had been a John Brown which had the following stops: GREAT - 8' Open Diapason, 8' Melodia, 8' Dulciana, 4' Octave. SWELL - 8' Viola, 8' Stopped Diapason, 4' Violina, 2' Flautino. PEDAL - 16' Bourdon.

This instrument cost \$1,000. (Those who attended the Frederick crawl awhile back will recognize this stop list as being nearly identical to the amazing little John Brown in Buckeystown.)

In more recent times (early 60's?) this instrument was replaced with a small Moeller 6-rank duplex job that became available from Towson Methodist. Tonally, this consisted of a Stopped Diapason, Salicional, Dulciana, and 4' Harmonic Flute duplexed on both manuals, as well as an Open Diapason on the Great, and a Pedal Bourdon which played on two pressures, the lighter of which produced a softer tone.

By the early 90's, this organ was pretty well shot and *euphonia* (sic) (a Baltimore firm no longer in business) built a new instrument using some material gleaned from this Moeller as well as another Moeller formerly housed in Alumni Hall. The Principal and Mixture are new. The one remaining vestige of the John Brown is the façade pipes (no longer speaking) which have been beautifully redecorated by the college's art department. These pipes stand in stark contrast alongside newer façade pipes of flamed copper.

Consisting of 12 highly unified ranks, the tonal design is based on the "werk-prinzip" idea. The instrument is entirely enclosed and is very nicely voiced on a wind pressure of 100mm. The builder wisely used the same name (in most cases) throughout each unit stop which helps a wise organist avoid the pitfalls of unification.

I: *16' Bourdon, *8' Principal, 8' Stopped Flute, *8' Viola, *8' Viola Celeste (TC), 4' Octave, *4' Chimney Flute, 2' Principal, *2' Open Flute, *1 1/3' Quint, III Mixture (1'), 8' Trumpet, Chimes.

II: 8' Chimney Flute, 8' Viola, 8' Viola Celeste, 4' Principal, 4' Open Flute, 4' Viola, 4' Viola Celeste, 2 2/3' Twelfth, 2' Principal, 2' Stopped Flute, *1 3/5' Tierce (TC), 1' Open Flute, *16' Trumpet, 8' Trumpet, Tremulant.

P: 16' Bourdon, 8' Principal, 8' Stopped Flute, 8' Viola, 4' Principal, 4' Chimney Flute, 2' Open Flute, *III Mixture (2'), 16' Trumpet, 8' Trumpet, 4' Trumpet.

*denotes basic voices.

From here we walked a short distance to our final destination, Big Baker Chapel, home of a 1958 Aeolian-Skinner. This organ was donated by college alum Roger Whiteford - father of Joseph Whiteford of Aeolian-Skinner fame - and the dedicatory recital was played by Virgil Fox. The console shell, originally built in 1939, was from Bruton Parish, Williamsburg, VA.

Compared to the two instruments visited earlier, this organ is almost entirely without unification except for a few judicious borrows and extensions of "workhorse" ranks. It features many tonal characteristics that made Aeolian-Skinner famous in its heyday: no reeds on the Great; a bold plenum which, upon adding the 16' Quintade, produces, in the words of G. Donald Harrison, "gravity without weight"; a very clear-toned Pedal division founded on a Contre Basse (no rolling Open Wood or weighty Sub Bass here); a quaint Nason Flute; and beautifully refined tonal finishing throughout. The stop list:

GREAT: 16' Quintade, 8' Principal, 8' Holzbordun, 4' Octave, 4' Nachthorn, 2 2/3' Twelfth, 2' Fifteenth, III-VI Fourniture.

SWELL: 16' Rohrbourdon (ext.), 8' Rohrflöte, 8' Viola Pomposa, 8' Voix Celeste, 4' Prestant, 4' Flute Harmonique, 2' Octavin, III Plein Jeu, 16' Hautbois (ext.), 8' Trompette, 8' Hautbois, 4' Clairon, Tremulant.

CHOIR: 8' Spitzgamba, 8' Nason Flute, 8' Flute Celeste II, 4' Koppelflote, 2' Spillflote, 1 3/5' Terz, 1 1/3' Larigot, 8' Cromorne, Tremulant.

(Note: there is no 2 2/3' in this division. The Nason Flute is so quinty that one can produce a quasi-cornet effect without the 2 2/3!)

PEDAL: 16' Contre Basse, 16' Rohrbass (SW), 16' Quintade (GT), 8' Octave, 8' Rohrflote (SW), 4' Choralbass, 4' Rohrflote (SW), III Fourniture, 16' Bombarde, 16' Hautbois (SW), 8' Trompette (ext. B'de), 4' Clairon (ext. B'de).

Once again, there was a generous allotment of time given for all who wished to play.

We are grateful to our host, Ted Dix, for giving so graciously of his time, and for his skillful demonstration of each instrument. Kudos to the Hilbus Chapter for yet another interesting and worthwhile organ crawl!

News and Information

Sunday, May 22nd at 4:00PM our chapter president, Carolyn Booth, will play a recital of organ music on the new organ at her church, "Our Lady of Mercy" 9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, MD. She will be playing works of Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor, Vierne, and Dupont as well as George Ackerley's "Suite for Mother Goose" for organ and narrator which won the 2004 Holtkamp Award for composition at the 2004 AGO convention in Los Angeles.

We have been invited to attend Michael Britt's theater organ recital at the Hardman residence in Great Falls, Virginia on Sunday afternoon, June 26, at 4:00 PM. This presentation is being co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia AGO and the Potomac Theater Organ Society. Because seating is limited we have to make reservations (as does everyone in these two organizations) by contacting Helen Rickels, who is Dean of the Northern Virginia AGO Chapter. Our members may call her at 703-759-9283, or e-mail her at: hirickels@aol.com

All who go are encouraged to carpool over to Great Falls. Everyone parks at a designated location and will be bussed into the Hardman's residence. No one will be allowed to drive into where the Hardmans live.