

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



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Saturday, February 23, 2008

[THANKS TO LARRY FORD AND KEVIN CLEMENS FOR ARRANGING THIS DAY!]

An Organ Tour of Baltimore's Highlandtown

10:00 AM

Nazareth Lutheran Church

3401 Bank Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

1927 Hall Organ Company

(New Haven, Connecticut)

2 manual and 27 speaking stops

Directions:

From Interstate 95 take the MD 150W / Eastern Avenue West – Exit 59 toward Highlandtown. Merge on to Eastern Avenue, turn right onto South Highland Avenue, and then turn left onto Bank Street.

11:00 AM

Abbotts Memorial Presbyterian Church

3426 Bank Street, Baltimore, MD 21224

(410) 276-6207

Moller Pipe Organ

(Hagerstown, Maryland)

Directions:

Walk across the street to church from Nazareth Lutheran Church.

[crawl information continued next page]

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Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: music.director@gracealex.org

Dues due in October: \$14, mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to Hilbus Chapter, OHS)

12:15 PM

Lunch at Eichenkranz Restaurant

611 South Fagley Street, Baltimore, MD 21224
(410) 563-7577

Specializes in German cuisine and offers a continental menu.

Directions:

From Abbotts Memorial Presbyterian Church go east on Bank Street toward South Baylis Street, turn right onto South Conkling Street, turn left onto Fleet Street and then turn right on South Fagley Street.

1:30 PM

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church

5401 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21224
(410) 633-8967

2 manual early 20th century tracker transplanted to this church.

Directions:

From the restaurant start going north on South Fagley Street toward Fleet Street. Turn right onto Fleet Street. Turn left onto South Grundy Street. Turn right onto Eastern Avenue.



Hilbus Chapter Organ Crawl

January 26, 2008 – A Day in Georgetown and Bethesda

Reviewed by Peter Crisafulli



Georgetown Baptist Roosevelt

Saturday, January 26 turned out to be one of those gorgeous Washington winter days – cold and sunny. What better thing could one do on a day like this but go out and explore some interesting organs in the area! And so it was that this is just what 18 or so of us from the Hilbus Chapter did.

Our first visit of the morning was to Georgetown Baptist Church, 3101 N Street NW, Washington, DC. The organ is a one-manual and pedal mechanical action instrument of six ranks built in 1883 by Hilbourne Roosevelt, Op. 119. This instrument was originally built for the Chapel of the Holy Cross, Episcopal lately St. Thomas Parish, DuPont Circle. Georgetown Baptist completed their building in 1903 and purchased the Roosevelt, installing it in a space at the front left of the sanctuary especially designed for it.

The first order of business was the presentation of the 2005 OHS Historic Citation for the Roosevelt organ by Carl Schwartz to church member Tom Fortnier. Following, there was ample opportunity to try out the organ.

The Hilbus Chapter has visited this instrument on at least a couple of other occasions that I am aware of. Our last visit was a little less than five years ago and was the occasion for a recital sponsored by the Hilbus Chapter. As one of the recitalists, I became well acquainted with the instrument, and on this return visit I was struck that -

even though it is seldom played or maintained - its present condition is largely unchanged from five years ago. While needing some TLC, it works surprisingly well. Surely, this is the result of the fine quality of the organs for which the Roosevelt firm was justifiably famous.

A feature of this instrument is that all of the manual stops are divided between bass and treble. In other words, there are two draw-knobs for each stop: those to the left of the center of the console (the stop knobs are arranged in one long horizontal row above the manual) control the bass end of each stop, while those to the right of center bring on the treble end. To engage the whole stop, one must draw both bass and treble knobs. This allows the creative player the possibility of solo/accompaniment combinations on a single keyboard.

Here follows the list of stops and other details.



Tom Fortnier (L) being present the Historical Organ Citation by President Carl Schwartz (R)



Roosevelt keydesk

- MANUAL** – 58 notes, stops divided between Tenor B/Middle C
- 8' Open Diapason Bass – *24 pipes*
- 8' Open Diapason Treble – *34 pipes*
- 8' Melodia Bass – *24 pipes*
- 8' Melodia Treble – *34 pipes*
- 8' Salicional Bass – *12 pipes* (TC, 1-12 common with Melodia Bass)
- 8' Salicional Treble – *34 pipes*
- 4' Octave Bass – *24 pipes*
- 4' Octave Treble – *34 pipes*
- 4' Violin Bass – *24 pipes*
- 4' Harmonic Flute Treble – *34 pipes*
- PEDAL** – 27 notes
- 16' Bourdon

In addition, there is a Manual Octave Coupler, a Manual to Pedal Coupler, a Tremulant, and a swell pedal. Almost all of the pipes are enclosed with the exception of some Open Diapason basses (which form part of the façade) and the Pedal Bourdon. A Bellows Signal knob bears testimony that this organ was originally hand-pumped, but an electric blower was added at some time in the past.

It has been said that nice things come in small packages, and so it is with this instrument. Here one is presented with a handful of attractive stops, each with its own distinct personality, and yet all pulling together into one seamless whole. The Open Diapason is clear and rich, right down to bottom C, and fills the room, not forcefully, but rather with gentle persuasiveness. Adding the 4' Octave enriches this unison tone significantly. The Melodia is cheerful and “flutey,” not dull and wooly like some 1920’s stops of the same name that I have experienced. One curiosity is that there is a 4' Violin Bass and a 4' Harmonic Flute Treble. Both are distinctive and there was no attempt to broaden the upper notes of the Violin Bass to merge with the Harmonic Flute Treble at middle c. Both stops are useful in a variety of ways, but it would be interesting to know what Hilbourne Roosevelt’s thinking was on this particular arrangement.

[Review continued next page]

Our next stop was at the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, 6201 Dunrobbin Place, Bethesda, MD, home of a fine new organ built by Hilbus member Michael Hart's firm, the DiGennaro-Hart Organ Company of McLean, Virginia. Michael Hart was present to introduce the instrument and make a few comments regarding the challenges of building a successful organ in this particular situation. However, the proof is in the pudding, as the saying goes, and Thom Robertson put this instrument through its paces with a stunning demonstration that proved beyond a doubt just how successful this instrument is. And while the repertoire Thom played was convincing enough, it was in the accompanying of the hymn "Gracious God, you call your people" set to the tune *Rustington* by C. H. H. Parry that really demonstrated what an exciting liturgical instrument this is. We congratulate Michael on this successful new installation.



Redeemer Episcopal, Bethesda - Console and Swell
Great is a mirror of the Swell in the opposite transept
Photo © Dillon Harrison Stewart

The instrument is situated in the front of the church behind the free-standing altar in twin cases with the unenclosed Great to the viewer's right and the enclosed Swell on the left, which is also the choir seating area. The façade pipes have an attractive gold finish and are comprised of Great Principal and Pedal Octave basses. The casework of red oak is so beautifully designed and in harmony with the building that one would think it had always been there. A luxurious moveable draw-knob console resides in the choir area except when moved out to "stage center" for recitals.

GREAT

8' Principal (Pedal extension)
8' Principal
8' Viole (SW) and/or Dulciana (SW)
8' Viole Celeste (SW)
8' Stopped Diapason (SW)
8' Harmonic Flute
4' Octave
4' Flute
2 2/3' Twelfth
2' Fifteenth
2' Flute
1 3/5' Seventeenth
1 1/3' Full Mixture 19.22.26.29
8' Trumpet (SW)
8' Clarinet
Tremulant
8' Horn (prepared for)

SWELL

16' Contre Viole
8' Diapason
8' Viole
8' Stopped Diapason
8' Dulciana
8' Unda Maris
8' Viole Celeste
4' Octave
4' Stopped Flute
2 2/3' Nazard
2' Principal
2' Octavin
2' Plein Jeu 15.19.22.26
16' Bassoon (TC)
8' Trumpet
8' Oboe
4' Clarion
Tremulant

PEDAL

16' Principal
16' Bourdon
16' Gedeckt
10 2/3' Bass Quint
8' Octave
8' Viole (SW)
8' Bass Flute
4' Super Octave
4' Flute
16' Double Trumpet
8' Trumpet (SW)
8' Clarinet (GR)
4' Clarinet (GR)

*Full compliment of couplers.
Fully equipped two-manual
and pedal draw-knob console.*

At noon we all headed to the nearby Irish Inn at Glen Echo for a most enjoyable repast.

Our final visit of the day was to St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 5450 Massachusetts Ave. in Bethesda, home of an early 1980's Wicks organ. This is a modest two-manual and pedal instrument of 14 ranks encased in the rear gallery with the Great division in the upper portion and the enclosed Swell just below at about head level for standing choir singers. This is all controlled from a detached stop-key console in the gallery. In recent years, Michael Hart has re-voiced much of the flue-work, and the sound of the instrument is quite satisfactory. A couple of mutation ranks and a pretty Krummhorn add some fun colors to the basic sounds.

GREAT

8' Principal
8' Holzgedackt
8' Gemshorn (SW)
4' Octave
4' Flöte (ext. Holz)
2' Super Octave (24 pipe ext of 8' Pr.)
III Mixture
8' Trompette (SW)
8' Krummhorn

SWELL

8' Rohrbordun
8' Gemshorn (1-12 common with Rohr)
8' Gemshorn Celeste (TC)
4' Principal
4' Rohrflöte (ext.)
4' Gemshorn (ext.)
2 2/3' Nasat (TC)
2' Principal (ext. 4')
2' Blockflöte (ext. Rohr)
1 3/5' Terz (TC)
1 1/3' Larigot (ext. Nasat)
8' Trompette
4' Clarion (ext.)

PEDAL

16' Subbass (ext. GR Holz)
16' Lieblich Gedackt (1-12 from Subbass on reduced wind; 13-32 from SW Rohr)
10 2/3' Quint (from Subbass & Holz; notes 13-32 play at 32' pitch)
8' Principal (GR)
8' Holzgedackt (GR)
4' Octave (GR 8' Pr.)
16' Contre Trompette (ext.)
8' Trompette (SW)
4' Krummhorn (GR)



St. Dunstan's - Bethesda

We wish to thank John Becker and Carl Schwartz for arranging this day, Tom Fortnier for hosting us at Georgetown Baptist, Michael Hart for showing us the organ at Redeemer, and Sharon Ollison, Interim Music Director at St. Dunstan's, for showing us the Wicks organ.





Carl Schwartz at St. Dunstan's console



**Interior of Redeemer Swell -
note wooden pipe with autographs
of guest recitalists**



*"In my eyes and ears the organ will forever be
the King of Instruments"
- Mozart*

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The March Crawl will be on March 29 since Easter falls on the usual weekend. Ted Gustin has put together an interesting crawl in Old Town Alexandria with visits to the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, Christ Church and St. Paul's Episcopal. We'll visit organs by Erben, Lively-Fulcher, Austin and Casavant; lunch will be at your choice of one of the many fine restaurants in Old Town.

April features a joint Crawl with the District of Columbia Chapter AGO on Saturday, April 26 from 10 to 1; the schedule will be a bit different than our usual pattern. Tom Cowan, sub-Dean of the DC AGO is organizing this event.

Chapter members may attend two other interesting crawls in April. John Brooks of the Potomac Chapter AGO is organizing an all-day bus trip and crawl to Lancaster, PA that will take place on Saturday, April 19. This will involve a Pennsylvania Dutch-style dinner at one of the restaurants there and visits to several interesting organs. Further details will be provided at a later date. It is hoped that we can arrange for a bus stop in the Baltimore area.

The Northern Virginia Chapter AGO is having a Road Trip and Brunch on Saturday April 12 with visits to Trinity Episcopal Church, Upperville and Warrenton Presbyterian. Tom Scheck, Hilbus member, is the host at Trinity Church in Upperville.

Put these dates on your calendar. There are many choices. Several of these events are opportunities to invite people to join our chapter.



Dates to remember:

February Crawl - Saturday, February 23rd

March Crawl - Saturday, March 29, 2008

Deadline for March Newsletter:

Thursday, March 13th