

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



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Saturday, August 28, 2010

An Ascent on Alexandria, Virginia

Crawl prepared by Ted Gustin and Tom Guthrie

9:00 AM

Aldersgate United Methodist Church

1301 Collingwood Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22308
(703) 765-6555
Elizabeth Miller, organist

**3 manual and pedal - 2001 Casavant Organ, Opus 3794
30 ranks**

From Baltimore and areas north take I-95 South to the Washington Beltway I-495 into Virginia. Take the ramp for Route 1 South in Alexandria and stay in the far right lane following signs to Fort Hunt Road. Exit on to Fort Hunt Road and after driving about 4 miles you will cross Collingwood Road. The church is on the right at the corner of Collingwood Road and Fort Hunt Road.

From the Washington D.C. area either take the 14th Street Bridge or the Memorial Bridge and follow the signs to Mount Vernon on the George Washington Memorial Parkway. Continue past Reagan National Airport and through Old Town Alexandria heading South. After you leave the Old Town Alexandria city limits continue about another 2 miles and turn right on to Belle Have Road. Continue about 1 mile and turn left at the light (Fort Hunt Road). Continue about 4 miles and you will come to Aldersgate United Methodist on the right, the corner of Collingwood Road and Fort Hunt Road.

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Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: kevinclemens@mac.com

Dues are due in October: \$14.00 mailed to Secretary-Treasurer (Checks payable to: HILBUS CHAPTER OHS)

10:30 a.m.

Bush Hill Presbyterian Church

4916 Franconia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22310
(703) 971-1171
Melvin Goodwyn, organist

**2 manual and pedal - 1995 Letourneau Organ
22 ranks**

Start out going West on Collingwood Road/VA 628 toward Colling Ridge Court. Continue to follow VA 628. Turn left onto Sherwood Hall Lane / VA 626. Turn right onto Richmond Highway / US - 1 North. Turn left onto N. Kings Highway / VA 241. Turn left onto Telegraph Road / Va - 611 West. Turn right onto VA 644 West / Franconia Road. Church is on the right. [17 minutes - 8.41 miles]

12:00 Noon

Cameron United Methodist Church

3130 Franconia Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22310
(703) 960-9505
Carol Schaub, organist

**2 manual and pedal - 1990 Zimmer Organ
21 ranks**

Start out going Southwest on Franconia Road / VA - 644 West toward Jane Way. Make a U-TURN onto Franconia Road / VA - 644 East. Church is on the left. [4 minutes - 2.01 miles]

1:30 p.m.

Mike's American Grill

6210 Backlick Road
Springfield, Virginia 22150
(703) 644-7100

Start out going East on Franconia Road / VA - 644 toward Telegraph Corner Lane. Turn left onto Telegraph Road / VA - 611 East. Continue to follow Telegraph Road. Take the 1-95 South / I - 495 West ramp toward Richmond. Merge onto I - 495 West / Capitol Beltway toward Baltimore / Richmond. Take the VA - 644 West / Old Keene Mill Road exit. Exit 169B toward Springfield. Keep left at the fork in the ramp. Stay straight to go onto Blacklick Road. Grill is on the left. [12 minutes - 7.87 miles]

Havre de Grace United Methodist Church
101 South Union Avenue
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078-3111
410.939.2464

Reviewed by Alan Hastings

The building of the Havre de Grace United Methodist Church is a handsome Victorian, built from the dark gray granite characteristic of the area, and it was built in 1901. The floor plan of main room of the church is a Greek or equal armed cross. The pulpit, chairs and a rather small area for a communion table are nearly central in that space with semicircular pews surrounding it and filling both the center and three of the arms of the cross. These three arms also have generous balconies.

The fourth arm of the cross contains a narrow choir loft and the organ. There is a frame and panel wall with a pipe fence atop it completely filling the fourth arm of the cross. These pipes are painted and are in good condition. They also have languids and the wall has windways at their feet, however, all conveyancing has been removed, and today these pipes are completely silent.

The building has been recently renovated and is an absolutely gorgeous space. The windows look like Tiffany's work and there is an immense, brass chandelier. Although it is not a small space, the feeling of the room is actually quite intimate.

The original organ in the space was a W. W. Kimball, built in 1902. It had 2 manuals, 14 ranks, tubular pneumatic key action, pneumatic stop action, pneumatic chests and was blown by a water motor. The console of this organ was built into the center of the wall. When the present organ was installed, the Kimball was removed and nothing is presently known of its disposition.

In 1968, the present organ, Möller Opus 10405 was installed replacing the Kimball. The new console is a drawknob console, fairly typical of Möller, however, it is not a standalone console; it has been built into the wall in the position of the console of the previous organ.

The organ itself is free-standing in the space behind the wall and pipe fence. There is a box containing the Swell and much of the Great which are independently expressive. There is space at either side of the box and this is occupied by the Pedal and some of the Great. (The Great Principal 8 and 4 and also the Mixture II-IV are not under expression).

Occupying, as it does, one entire arm of the Greek cross, the organ has extremely good coupling with the room. It is neither inadequate nor overwhelming and just about every point in the room is a good one for hearing the organ. It should be capable of doing a good job of leading congregational singing.

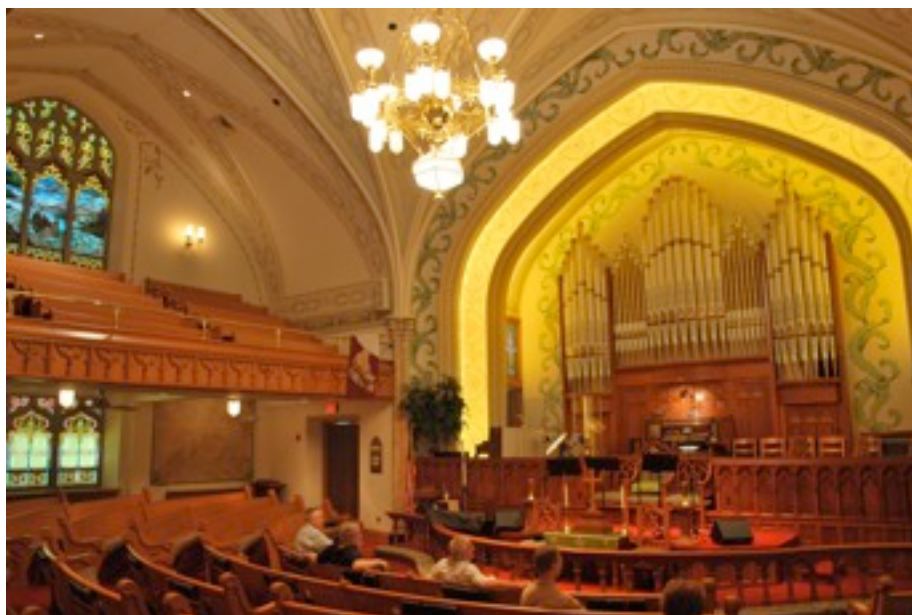
GREAT

8' Principal
8' Bourdon
8' Erzähler
4' Octave
4' Spillflöte
Sesquialtera II
Mixture II-IV
Great 16
Great Unison Off
Great 4
Tremulant



SWELL

8' Holz Gedeckt
8' Viole de Gambe
8' Viole Celeste
4' Spitz Principal
2' Blockflöte
Plein Jeu III
8' Trompette 8
Swell 16
Swell Unison Off
Swell 4
Tremulant



PEDAL

32' Resultant

16' Contre Basse

16' Holz Gedeckt

8' Principal

8' Holz Gedeckt

4' Gedeckt

4' Octave

16' Contre/Trompette 16

4' Trompette 4

MECHANICAL

Great to Pedal

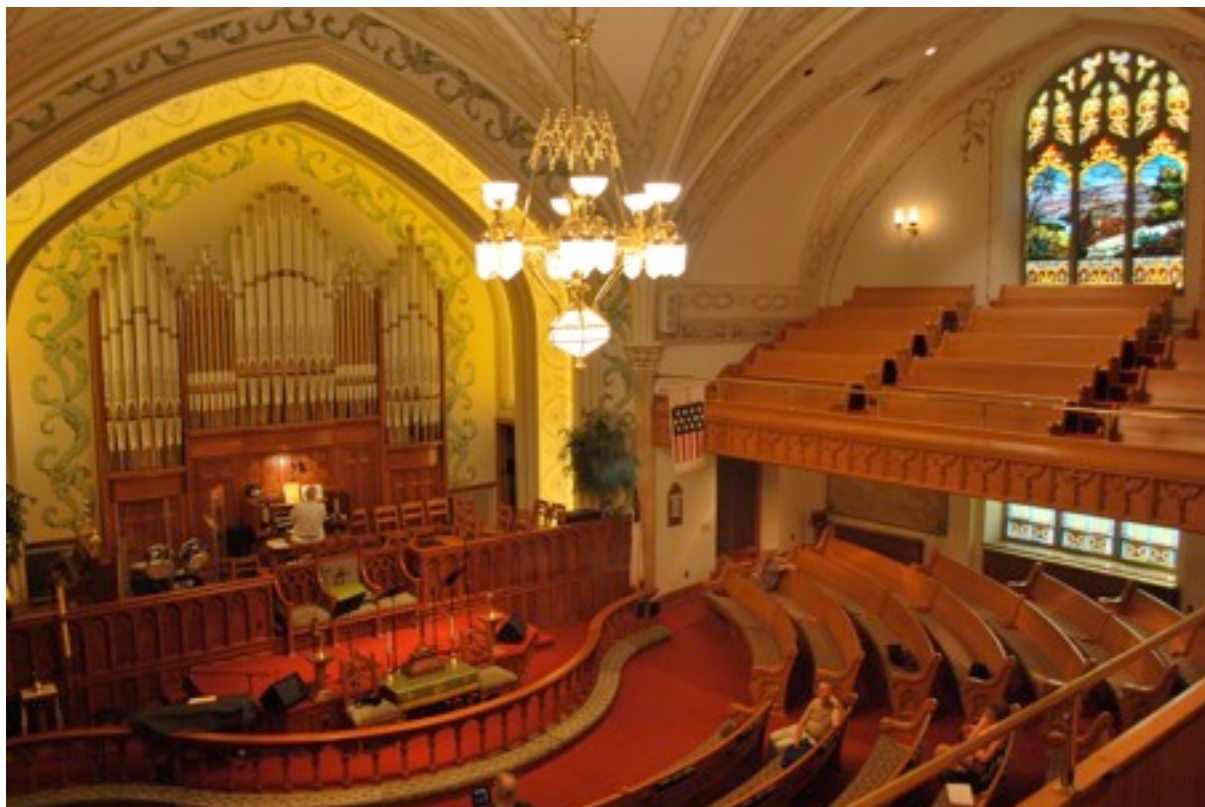
Swell to Pedal

Swell to Pedal 4

Swell to Great 16

Swell to Great

Swell to Great 4



St. John's Episcopal Church
114 North Union Avenue
Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078-3008
410.939.2107

Reviewed by Alan Hastings

At 201 years of age, the building of St. John's is a graceful, beautiful antiquity. The organ in it is much younger, dating from 1946.

Unfortunately, there was a mixup and the person who was going to be our host did not show up, and although we were able to see and play the organ, we were not able to obtain any historical information about either the building or the organ, or any of its predecessors.

The present organ is a Wicks, and although it does not say so on the nameplate, it was reported to us as having been built in 1946.

The organ itself is in a nearly cubical box centrally located in the rear gallery; the console is in the front, in the choir, on the Gospel side. In spite of the separation, there was no noticeable acoustic delay.

Everything seemed to be in good working order and tune, and that is to be expected; if there is one thing for which the Wicks direct electric action is famous, it is longevity. The console, although everything worked, showed its 64 years, and had a certain fragility about it.

The sound of the organ was generous and warm, and, as an examination of the stoplist below would indicate, it seems not to be influenced by the organ reform movement which was just beginning at the time it was built. Although the Great has stops up to the 2' pitch, the Swell with its 16-8-8-8-8-4-8-8 pitches, the absence of mixtures and the full complement of sub and super couplers identify the romantic roots of this instrument.

Incidentally, speaking of couplers, one interesting thing is the labeling of the couplers. If you look at the photographs, you will note that all of the stop tabs are white. In order to distinguish the couplers from the speaking stops, the builder placed a dark circle around the pitch number at the end of the stop tabs which operated couplers. In the case of the unison offs, (marked "Unison Silent") there was simply an empty circle.

The organ is almost completely straight. Other than the pedal, the only borrow which we thought we could identify were the Great Melodia 8 and Flute 4. The Bourdon 16 and Lieblich Gedeckt 16 are independent ranks. From the console, we counted 15 ranks.

There has been at least one change in the history of the organ: the stop tab for the Swell Trumpet 8' is covered with masking tape and the name of the stop is written with a ball point pen.

GREAT

- 8' Open Diapason
- 8' Melodia
- 8' Dulciana
- 4' Octave
- 4' Flute
- 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ' Octave Quint
- 2' Super Octave
- Chimes
- Great to Great 16
- Great Unison Silent
- Great to Great 4
- Swell to Great 16
- Swell to Great 8
- Swell to Great 4



SWELL

- 16' Lieblich Gedeckt
- 8' Stopped Flute
- 8' Salicional
- 8' Aeoline
- 8' Voix Celeste
- 4' Flute
- 8' Trumpet
- 8' Oboe
- Swell to Swell 16
- Swell Unison Silent
- Swell to Swell 4
- Tremolo



PEDAL
16' Bourdon
16' Lieblich Gedeckt
8' Melodia
8' Swell to Pedal
8' Great to Pedal



Grace United Methodist Church
110 West Bel Air Avenue
Aberdeen, Maryland 21001-3242
410.272.0909

Grace United Methodist in Aberdeen is at once the youngest we visited on this crawl and the oldest. Although the present building was built in 1965, the roots of the congregation go back to 1769. The present building has no fewer than five cornerstones from the several buildings which have been home to the congregation. In 1866, the congregation split on the issue of slavery and until 1939, when they voted to merge, there were two congregations.

[Much more complete information about the history of this congregation can be found on their web site: <http://www.graceumchurch.org/> click on About Us].

The Organ Historical Society lists two organs during this period, in the Methodist Church (one of the two congregations) there was the M. P. Möller Opus 1557 dated ca. 1913. This was an organ of 2 manuals and 16 ranks. Also from the 1940's, which would be after the reunion, there was in Grace Methodist M. P. Möller Opus 7248 dated ca. 1940, 2 manuals, 34 ranks.

The present building was built in 1965 and consecrated in 1966, and it was at that time that the present organ was begun. The Wicks Organ Company installed their Opus 4494, a 19 rank instrument, in chambers above and to the left and right of a divided chancel. Dennis Stewart, the present organist, said of that installation, "They made sure that every pipe played—then left. There was no voicing."

One story of note was that originally the pipes were behind nominally acoustically transparent curtains. At one point, for some reason, the curtains were removed, and the congregations immediately noticed—and liked—the improvement that this made in the organ, and the curtains were never replaced.

This organ served with minor alterations until 1999, when 76 digital ranks were added by Walker Technical Company, and a new custom 4 manual console was built by R. A. Colby. The digital stops were, for the most part, sampled from Skinner organs. Presently, the original Wicks organ still occupies the space in the chancel, but now there are speakers

for the Walker stops there as well. In addition, there is a speaker on the rear wall, decorated with something which vaguely resembles pipes which is the Walker antiphonal work.

Dennis Stewart

The specifications of the original 1965 Wicks organ are:

- GREAT (Enclosed)
- 8' Diapason
- 8' Bourdon
- 8' Gemshorn
- 4' Octave
- 4' Hohlflote
- 2²/₃' Plein Jeu III
- 8' Krummhorn
- 8' Oboe
- 4' Oboe Clarion
- Tremolo

- PEDAL
- 16' Diapason
- 16' Bourdon
- 16' Rohrbass (SW)
- 8' Spitz Principal
- 8' Bourdon
- 8' Rohrflote (SW)
- 4' Choralbass
- 4' Rohrflote (SW)
- 16' Trombone (GT)
- 8' Trompette (GT)



Two balanced expression pedals.

Crescendo Pedal

Four General Pistons

Four Divisional Pistons and One Cancel per division.

Four Master Pistons and One General Cancel.

Sforzando Piston and Redal Reversible.

Great to Pedal Reversible Toe Stud.
 Full Compliment of Couplers _except_ Swell to Pedal 4'.
 Manual Compass- 61 notes
 Pedal Compass- 32 notes- AGO Pedalboard.

The specifications after the 1999 additions:

GREAT

- 16' Violone (Walker)
- 8' First Diapason (Walker)
- 8' Second Diapason (Wicks)
- 8' Gemshorn (Wicks)
- 8' Flute Harmonique (Walker)
- 8' Melodia (Walker)
- 4' First Octave (Walker)
- 4' Second Octave (Wicks)
- 4' Nachthorn (Walker)
- 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ ' Twelfth (Wicks)
- 2' Fifteenth (Wicks)
- Fourniture IV (Walker)
- Scharf IV (Walker)
- 16' Contra Tromba (Walker)
- 8' Trumpet (Wicks)
- 8' Tuba Mirum (Walker)
- Great Unison Off
- Major Chimes (Walker)
- Tremolo



SWELL

- 16' Bourdon Doux (Walker)
- 8' Geigen Diapason (Walker)
- 8' Rohr Flute (Wicks)
- 8' Flauto Dolce (Walker)
- 8' Flauto Dolce Celeste (Walker)
- 8' Viola da Gamba (Wicks)
- 8' Voix Celeste (Wicks)



8' Aeoline Celeste II (Walker)
 4' Prestant (Möller)
 4' Hohl Flute (Wicks)
 2²/₃' Nazard (Walker)
 2' Piccolo (Walker)
 1³/₅' Tierce (Walker)
 Plein Jeu III (Wicks)
 16' Contra Basson (Walker)
 8' French Trumpet (Walker)
 8' Oboe (Wicks)
 8' Vox Humana (Walker)
 4' Clarion (Walker)
 Tremolo
 Swell to Swell 4
 Swell Unison Off
 Swell to Swell 16



CHOIR
 16' Dulciana (Walker)
 8' English Diapason (Walker)
 8' Bourdon (Wicks)
 8' Erzähler (Walker)
 8' Erzähler Celeste (Walker)
 4' Principal (Walker)
 4' Harmonic Flute (Organ Supply, 1985)
 2' Octavin (Walker)
 2' Flautino (Walker)
 1¹/₃' Larigot (Walker)
 Sesquialtera II (Walker)
 Carillon Mixture III (Walker)
 16' Corno di Bassetto (Walker)
 8' Trompette Harmonique (Walker)
 8' Cromorne (Walker)
 8' Cor Anglais (Walker)
 8' Festival Trumpet (Walker)



4' Musette (Walker)
 Chimes (Wicks)
 Harp (Walker)
 Tremolo
 Choir to Choir 4
 Choir Unison Off
 Choir to Choir 16



SOLO

8' Doppel Flute (Walker)
 8' Gamba (Walker)
 8' Gamba Celeste (Walker)
 4' Orchestral Flute (Walker)
 8' Orchestral Oboe (Walker)
 8' French Horn (Walker)
 8' Clarinet (Austin, 1949)
 8' Tuba Mirabilis (Walker)
 8' Festival Trumpet (Walker)
 Tremolo
 Solo Unison Off

ANTIPHONAL

8' Diapason (Walker)
 8' Holz Gedeckt (Walker)
 8' Viola de Orchestra (Walker)
 8' Viola Celeste (Walker)
 4' Octave (Walker)
 4' Flute d' Amore (Walker)
 2' Flageolet (Walker)
 Mixture IV (Walker)
 8' Tromba (Walker)
 Tremolo
 Antiphonal Unison Off



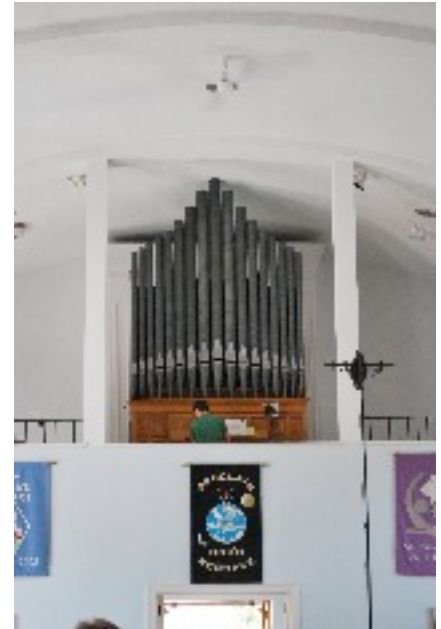
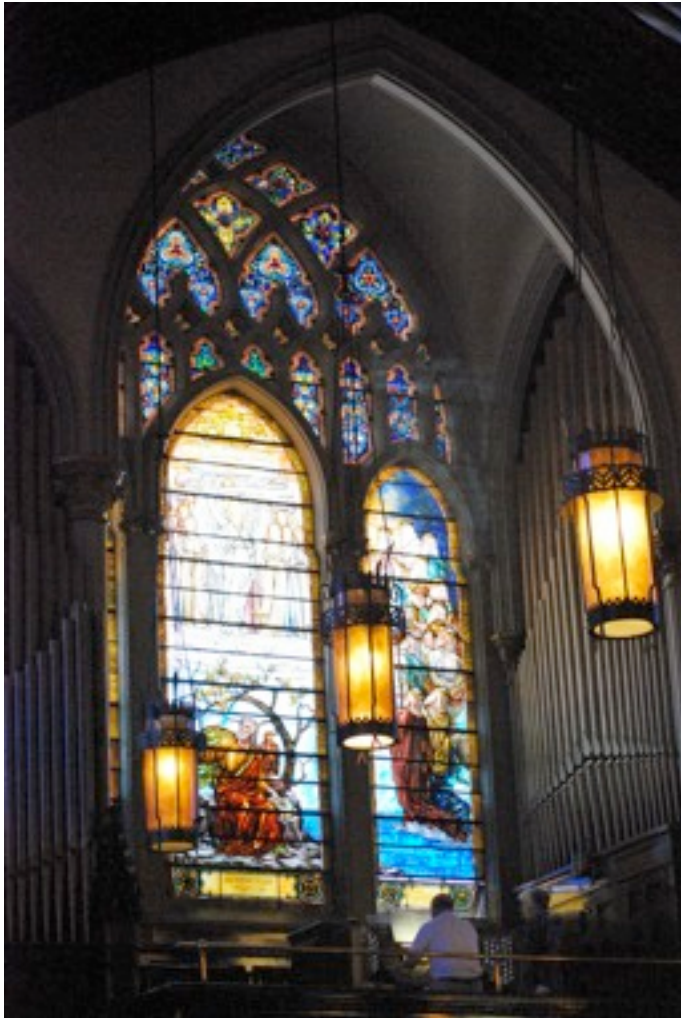
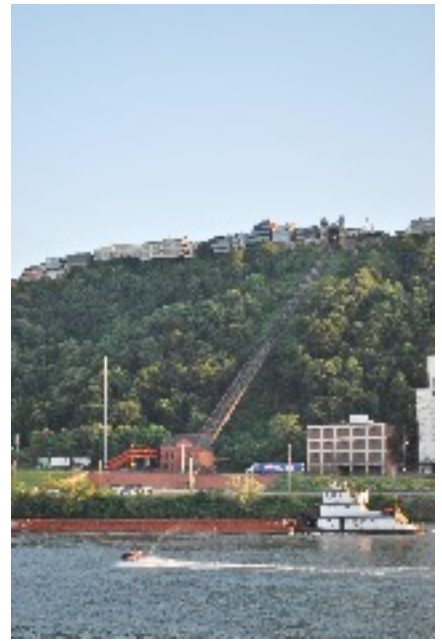
PEDAL

32'	Double Diapason	(Walker)
32'	Contra Bourdon	(Walker)
32'	Untersatz	(Resultant)
16'	Diapason	(Wicks)
16'	Open Wood	(Walker)
16'	Bourdon	(Wicks)
16'	Rohr Bass	(Wicks)
16'	Gemshorn	(Walker)
8'	Principal	(Wicks)
8'	Bourdon	(Wicks)
8'	Gedackt	(Walker)
4'	Choral Bass	(Wicks)
4'	Rohr Flute	(Wicks)
	Mixture III	(Walker)
32'	Contra Bombarde	(Walker)
16'	Trombone	(Wicks)
16'	Bombarde	(Walker)
8'	Trompette	(Walker)
8'	Festival Trumpet	(Walker)
4'	Clarion	(Walker)
4'	Basson	(Walker)
	Major Chimes	(Walker)



PHOTOS OF THE PITTSBURGH OHS CONVENTION 2010





More photos to follow in future newsletters.