

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

www.hilbus.org



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HAGERSTOWN GEMS

Prepared by Paul Roeder

Saturday, July 25, 2015

10:00 a.m.

St. James Episcopal School

17641 College Road

St. James, Maryland 21781

2006 Randall Dyer and Associates, Inc.

2 manual and pedal (Speaking with an Anglican accent.)

17 ranks The only Dyer Pipe Organ in Maryland. The prestigious Curtis School Of Music in Philadelphia has two Randall Dyer and Associates pipe organs for teaching and practice.

DIRECTIONS: From Washington, D.C. drive to I-270 North to Frederick and merge onto I-70 West towards Hagerstown. From Baltimore drive to I-70 West going through Frederick to Hagerstown. Take the MD-65 Exit. Exit 29 toward Sharpsburg/Hagerstown, 0.2 miles. Keep left to take the ramp toward Sharpsburg/Maryland Correctional Facilities/Antietam Battlefield, 0.02 miles. Turn left onto MD-65 / S. Potomac Street. Continue on MD - 65, 1.3 miles. Turn right onto College Avenue, 1.7 miles. 17641 College Road is on the left.

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

11:30 a.m.

LUNCH

Schmankerl Stube Bavarian Restaurant

**58 South Potomac Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740**

Directions: Drive out East on College Road toward Carter Lane, 1.7 miles. Turn left onto Sharpsburg Pike / MD-65 and continue 2.5 miles. MD-65 becomes Potomac Street, 0.8 miles. Turn a slight right onto South Locust Street, 0.6 miles. Turn left onto East Franklin Street / US 40 West, 0.2 miles. Turn left onto North Potomac Street / US 40 ALT East, 0.2 miles. Restaurant is on the left.

1:15 p.m.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**1345 Potomac Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21742**

*1935, M.P. Möller Pipe Organ, Opus 6237
3 manual and pedal - 38 ranks*

DIRECTIONS: Drive Southwest on South Potomac Street toward West Antietam Street, 0.1 mile. Take second left onto East Baltimore Street / US 40 ALT. East 0.1 mile. Take second left onto South Locust Street / US 40 ALT. West and continue to follow South Locust Street., 0.9 miles. Turn left onto Fairground Avenue, 0.1 mile. Turn right onto Potomac Avenue, 0.8 miles. Church is on the left.



Hilbus Chapter Annual Meeting & Crawl, May 23, 2015 Reviewed by Peter Crisafulli

A goodly number of Hilbus Chapter members attended the May 23 Annual Meeting at the home of Paul and Barb Birckner in Fort Washington, Maryland. Chapter members have visited here on past occasions, but this was a first for me, and what a delightful treat it was! Paul and Barb have an amazing collection of keyboard instruments in their home, including a grand piano, a French harmonium, an American-made reed organ, and two pipe organs! It is to the pipe organs that I will now turn my attention.

The first is a two-manual and pedal of 9 stops built by the German firm of **Walcker**. This organ, built in the early 1970's, originally resided at the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music, and later at Towson State University. At Towson it was installed in a too-small practice room and the installation proved problematic. Following Towson, it came into the hands of a Baltimore owner. By the time it came into Paul's possession in November of 1997 it had been abused, including cigarette burns on the console and some missing façade pipes, and action parts were missing no doubt due to the many moves this organ had gone through. Paul, along with fellow Hilbus Chapter member John Becker, moved the organ to Paul's home. Subsequently, Paul did much to refurbish the instrument with help from organ builder Xaver Wilhelmy.

There are two particularly unique features about this organ: first, the new 4' Querflöte stop by Wilhelmy is made of open metal pipes of square configuration! Standard round pipes of the desired scale would not fit into the allocated space. They sound lovely. Second, the manual coupler works two ways - one can either couple Manual II to Manual I, or the reverse.

The instrument employs mechanical key and stop action and is comfortable to play. The sound is gentle, a delight to the ear.

Manual I
8' Gedeckt
4' Nachthorn
2' Harfenprinzipal (façade)

Manual II
8' Rohrflöte
4' Querflöte (new pipes by Wilhelmy)
2 2/3' Quint (originally 1 1/3' re-pitched)
2' Piccolo (originally a 1' Siffelöte re-pitched)

Pedal (located behind case)
16' Subbass (wood)
4' Gemshorn

II/I or I/II, I/P, II/P
Tremulant (new, Dom Bedos style, added by Wilhelmy)
Manual/pedal compasses 61/32.



The second organ was built by **Detlef Kleuker**, also of Germany. It is a one-manual and pedal instrument with all of the manual stops divided between Tenor A - A#. That means each stop has two knobs: one for the bass end, and the other for the treble.

Originally, the Pedal consisted only of a metal 16' Subbass and a manual to pedal coupler, but Paul wanted more independence so Wilhelmy constructed a new electric action chest placed behind the organ which contains two new stops. It is now possible to do much pedal-playing without resorting to the manual to pedal coupler. Other than the new pedal additions, the remainder of the instrument is entirely mechanical action.

We found this organ quite versatile, especially with the independent pedal and divided manual stops. The flutes in particular are charming.

Manual (all stops divided bass/treble)

8' Gedeckt

4' Rohrflöte

2 2/3' Quint

2' Prinzipal (façade)

III Mixture (1')

Pedal

16' Subbass (part in façade, copper)

8' Gedeckt (new, wood)

4' Prinzipal (new, open wood)

Koppel (manual to pedal coupler)



Zimbelstern

Manual/pedal compasses 56/30. Thanks to Gordon Biscomb for the superb photography.

After trying out the instruments, we broke into an impromptu hymn-sing with Glen Frank at the Kleuker and yours truly on the Walcker. Great fun!

At 11:00am we turned our attention to the annual Business Meeting and the election and installation of officers: Glen Frank, Chairman; Gerald Piercey, Vice-Chairman; and Carolyn Booth, Treasurer. Thank you, Glen, Gerald and Carolyn for serving!

A potluck lunch followed the meeting. Paul & Barb provided a ham and turkey breast and the rest of us brought all manner of salads and other delectable side dishes, as well as desserts. What a splendid repast!



After lunch, we made our way over to the **Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, 3319 Alabama Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20020**. Here we enjoyed a wonderful two manual and pedal organ of 12 stops/14 ranks built by **Karl Wilhelm, Inc. in 1976, his Opus 47**.

This organ is a testament to what artistic smaller instruments can achieve. Outstanding among many beautiful sonorities are the robust plenum, gorgeous flutes, and a superb reed stop. The pipes for both manuals reside on a common wind chest in the main case with the pedal situated behind in its own case. Key and stop action are mechanical, and it is an elegant instrument to play.

Manual I

8' Rohrflöte
4' Prinzipal (façade)
2' Waldflöte
III Mixtur (1')

Manual II

8' Gedackt
4' Rohrflöte
2' Prinzipal
1 1/3' Quinte
8' Krummhorn

Pedal

16' Subbass
8' Bourdon
4' Choralbass

3 usual couplers (controlled by foot levers)
Zimbelstern (toe stud)
Manual/pedal compasses 56/30.

Finally, it was time to depart and go our several ways. What a great day this was. We are so grateful for Paul & Barb Birckner's gracious hospitality, for the opportunity to play and enjoy Paul's house organs, and for his arranging for us to visit the Wilhelm organ. Photos of this instrument were not taken due to the photographer arriving late at the church and the Hilbus members were gone.



Group photo of the Hilbus Chapter at the 2015 The Pioneer Valley - Western Massachusetts - The Organ Historical Society - 60th Annual Convention. (from left to right) Bill Van Pelt, Glen Frank, Craig Richmond, Carolyn Booth, Dan Clayton, Randy Wagner, Peter Crisafulli, John Becker, Scot Huntington, Paul Birckner, Paul Roeder, Tom Bozek, and Tommy Lee Whitlock. Absent from the photo but who also attended the convention. David Dasch, Chapman Gonzalez, Kevin Clemens, Michael Timinski, Roy Perdue, John Igoe, Sam Baker, Andy Price, Ted Davis, and Jon Swanson.

Thanks to John Mitchell for taking the photograph.