

Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

Where the Tracker Action Is!

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WASHINGTON, D.C. CRAWL

Saturday, June 17, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Church of the Epiphany (Episcopal)

1317 G Street, NW

Washington, D.C.

The Adolf Torovsky Memorial Organ
1968 AEolian-Skinner IV/64

Directions: Use the 13th and G exit from the Metro Center (all lines lead to Metro Center, its easy). There is a pay parking lot right next door to the Church (1325 G Street). <https://www.pmi-parking.com/parking/view.aspx?recordid=71> Once there, the two churches and lunch venues are all walkable within three blocks.

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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.

The Hamilton
14th and G Streets
Washington, D.C.

This is a Clyde's Group restaurant, the menu is similar.

<https://www.thehamiltondc.com/menus/lunch>

Alternately there is a Food Court in the National Press
Building. 13th and F Streets
<http://eatatnationalplace.com>

1:15 p.m.

First Congregational Church (UCC)
945 G Street at 10th Street, NW
Washington, D.C.

1960 Casavant Frères 3/41

Day of Crawl Contact Person.

Michael Hart 301.613.1400 Mobile Direct and Text

RECITALS AND CONCERTS

Friday, June 9, 12:15 p.m. - MUSIC AT MIDDAY - National City Christian Church, Washington, DC - Organist - Michael Britt

Friday, June 16, 12:15 p.m. - MUSIC AT MIDDAY - National City Christian Church, Washington, DC - Organist Alan Hommerding

Friday, June 23, 12:15 p.m. - MUSIC AT MIDDAY - National City Christian Church, Washington, DC - Organist - Sondra Goldsmith Proctor

Friday, June 30, 12:15 p.m. - MUSIC AT MIDDAY - National City Christian Church, Washington, DC - Organist - Aaron Comins

Reviews of the May Organ Crawl

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Photos by Glen Frank

1) Carolyn Lamb-Booth

Last February, several of us were coming up with some ideas for future crawls. Peter Crisafulli's new organ came up and of course, everyone wanted to hear it. Someone suggested that this be a house organ tour. I said that we could also visit John Becker's home since I knew he also has a house organ. Having this crawl in May was offered as a possibility, and the date May 27 worked for everyone. I suggested that we could have a picnic lunch at John's home since it was certainly large enough, and that was agreeable for everyone.

I want to thank Peter and his lovely wife, Linda, for their wonderful hospitality. I especially want to thank John and his wonderful daughter, Frances, for helping me put the lunch together. Also many thanks to Amanda, John's other daughter, who came down from Pennsylvania, to help. A BIG thank you to everyone who brought food to share. Thank goodness, the weather was cooperative. I think everyone who came had a wonderful time. What a great way to herald in the Memorial Day weekend!

2) Peter Crisafulli

Twenty-one members of the Hilbus OHS Chapter descended on the residence of Peter & Linda Crisafulli. Saturday, morning, May 27, the first of two visits to house organs in Gaithersburg, MD. As well, the annual business meeting was conducting later that afternoon at the second venue. (See Carl Schwartz's review).

The main attraction at the Crisafulli residence was the new 2-rank mechanical action practice organ built by Walh Organbuilders of Appleton, WI, installed in the Crisafulli living room last October. Also on display was a double manual French-style harpsichord built from a Hubbard kit by Peter Crisafulli, completed in 1977.

The Wahl organ is housed in a hand-crafted case of solid cherry. A ginkgo leaf design carved into basswood insets adorns the doors on the front of the case.

The tonal resources consists of two contrasting but complimentary ranks. The bottom manual plays a full-compass 8' Principal of metal from TC-up, the bottom octave consisting of full-length open wood pipes hung on the back of the case with the two lowest pipes (C & C#) mitered so that the entire instrument fits comfortably under an 8' ceiling. The upper manual plays an 8' Gedeckt. This rank is of metal from low f#-up with domed lids soldered on, tuned from the ears. The lowest six pipes are stopped wood.

There are five couplers to fully optimize the potential of this instrument for practice purposes: a bi-directional coupler allows the manuals to be coupled in either direction, down or up, and in addition to the two usual manual to pedal couplers, there is a I/P Octave coupler enabling a 4' cantus firmus to be played on the pedals.

Manuals are 58 notes, and there is a 30 note parallel/concave pedalboard. Pedal couplers are controlled by three foot levers, and the manual bi-directional coupler is controlled by a draw-knob on either side of the keyboards.

The entire instrument is modular enabling quick dismantling and reassembly if one moves to a new location, and the entire assembly minus pedalboard is on castors allowing the instrument to be easily rolled out from the wall for adjustments and vacuuming behind the case. The dimensions are: 94"high, 54"wide, and 32" deep excluding keyboards and pedalboard.

The sound is full but gentle with a hint of articulation, and the doors effectively modify the sound whether fully or partially open, or closed. The action is agreeable. Overall, it is a perfect instrument for hours of concentrated practice in an intimate environment.

3) Carl Schwartz

Becker Residence, Gaithersburg, Maryland
Lewis & Hitchcock, Inc. Opus 251, 1977 II-3
Electromechanical action (DE)

Resources:

A	8' Gedeckt	56 pipes
B	4' Principal	68 pipes
C	1 1/3 Quint	44 pipes

Derivation of stops as indicated below.

Manual I

8' Principal	AB (1-12 Gedeckt 8+4)
8' Gedeckt	AC
4' Principal	B
2' Gedeckt	AC
Mixture II	BC

Manual II

8' Gedeckt	AC
4' Flute	AC
2' Principal	B
1 1/3' Quint	CB

Pedal

16' Faux Gedeckt (1-12 8+5 1/3)	A
8' Gedeckt	A
4' Principal	B
4' Flute	A
Mixture II (2 2/3 & 2)	ABC

This compact organ at the home of longtime Hilbus Chapter member John Becker was designed to fit in the imposing stairwell of the Becker house. The exposed pipes and wind chest sit atop the painted base which contains the key desk and music rack. The switching is contained in the key contact trays behind the keyboards.

The plan is rather unusual in that the trebles of the Gedeckt unit come from the tapered Quint rank, creating a sort of tonal paradox that imparts some color to the tonal aspect though in an unorthodox way. The organ has a musical, articulate and perky sound typical of the instruments designed by George Payne, the President and owner of Lewis and Hitchcock. The organ has a robust ensemble and the 16' Pedal Resultant is quite convincing in this organ.

Thanks to Lewis and Hitchcock, Inc. for providing additional information for this report.



Photos of the Wahl Organbuilders pipe organ.





Photos of the Becker Residence.



