

# Hilbus Chapter

The Organ Historical Society, Inc.

*Where the Tracker Action Is!*

www.hilbus.org



Volume 49 Number 6

March 2019

Whole, Number 444

*published monthly except for July and December*

## **Baltimore AGO - Hilbus OHS Organ Crawl Saturday, March 30, 2019 Organs of Henry Niemann**

### **10:00 - 10:45 Old Otterbein United Methodist Church**

112 W Conway St, Baltimore, MD 21201

1897 Henry Niemann



### **11:15 - 12:00 St. Leo the Great R.C. Church**

227 S Exeter St, Baltimore, MD 21202

1881 Henry Niemann

### **12:15 - 1:30 Lunch at La Tavola** in Little Italy

248 Albemarle St. Baltimore, MD 21202

By reservation: email Baltimore AGO Sub-Dean Sean O'Connor

[soconnor@baltimoreago.org](mailto:soconnor@baltimoreago.org) or 484-903-6389

House made pizza upon arrival

Field green house salad

Chicken Parmesan

Spaghetti Bolognese

All beverages (soft drinks, coffee, tea), tax, tip included

Please note all pastas and pizzas are fresh made in house. Also, a cash bar is available.

Cost per person is \$25 payable that day.

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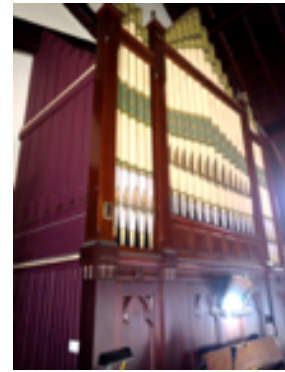
<b>Chairman:</b> Gerald Piercey, 4008 Decatur Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895	(301) 933-1503
<b>Vice-Chairman:</b> Peter Crisafulli, 37 Big Acre Square, Gaithersburg, MD 20878	(301) 977-2370
<b>Secretary-Treasurer:</b> Carolyn Lamb Booth, 9200 LaBelle Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20879	(301) 869-6271
<b>Editor:</b> Carl Schwartz, 12802 Ruxton Road, Silver Spring, MD	(301)-221-4815
<b>Editor-Advisor:</b> Carolyn Fix, 166 Battle Street, Vienna, VA 22180	(703) 281-5046

*Articles and news may be submitted to the Editor electronically: [ruxtoncar@icloud.com](mailto:ruxtoncar@icloud.com)*

**2:00 - 3:00 St. Thomas Aquinas R.C. Church**

1008 W 37th St, Baltimore, MD 21211

1880's Henry Niemann



**3:30 - 4:30 First Unitarian Church**

1 W Franklin St, Baltimore, MD 21201

1893 Henry Niemann

1880 Henry Niemann

People can drive themselves although we do recommend and strongly urge carpooling as there is very limited parking at most of these churches. If people want to drive to Baltimore and meet up at a place and park cars and car pool from there, they can meet at St. Philip and James Church at 28th Street and North Charles before 9:30 a.m. There is a little parking lot accessed from 28th street, right across from the rectory. They can park there for the day.

Thanks to David Storey for making these exciting arrangements.

**CHAPTER NEWS**

**Saturday, April 27** – David Dutton is arranging a crawl in the Fredericksburg, VA area.

**Saturday, May 25** – Annual Meeting & crawl. Details TBA.

**FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER**

I would like to thank everyone who have paid their dues for 2018-2019. AND a SPECIAL thank you to everyone who gave a voluntary donation to the Biggs Fellow for the 2019 OHS convention. Not everyone gave but a lot of you did and very generously too, I might add. And because of those of you who gave, Hilbus Chapter OHS will be supporting one Biggs Fellow for \$1725.00. CONGRATULATIONS!! If you haven't paid your dues yet and would like to donate monies, I will earmark it for the 2020 convention because, as you know, \$1725.00 IS a lot of money!!

There are still some of you who haven't yet paid their dues. If you are dropping your membership in Hilbus Chapter OHS, I need to know so that I can place you on the inactive list. But I hope that you will stay with us!!!

Carolyn Booth - Secretary-Treasurer

**February Crawl**  
**The Organs of St. John's Church, Norwood Parish**  
**A Review by Peter Crisafulli**  
**Crawl arranged by Peter Crisafulli**

On Saturday morning, February 23, 2019, Hilbus Chapter members gathered at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6701 Wisconsin Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Although we have visited this venue on two other occasions in recent years – June 28, 2008 and March 25, 2017 – we found it rewarding to revisit the magnificent Berghaus organ as well as the delightful Pomplitz/Rodewald chamber organ both housed in the main church. A third organ in the chapel, an English inspired one-manual & pedal GG-compass instrument built by Laukhuff/Reuter in 1990, was out of commission at the time of our visit due to ongoing re-leathering of the reservoir. The review in this article is taken from that of a previous visit.

We were warmly welcomed by the Director of Music Ministries, Karl Robson. Karl is relatively new to the St. John's staff having begun his duties last May. He gave a beautiful demonstration of the Berghaus organ playing music of Louis Vierne. There was ample "open console" time for us to explore the organ's many fine stops and combinations.

Here, the main attraction was the church's Berghaus organ. With the recent addition of the Positif Flute Celeste II this instrument now contains 59 stops comprising 65 ranks over 3 manuals and pedal. It is housed behind a handsome painted façade showing pipes of the Pédale 16' Montre and incorporates architectural elements from the nave. Behind the façade, the Grand Orgue and Pédale reign supreme at the top, with the enclosed Positif and Récit divisions below.

This instrument, in the words of Jonathan Oblander of the Berghaus firm, "while not being a strict copy of a particular historical period is a synthesis of both classical and romantic styles."

With the exception of certain reeds and a few off-sets, a majority of the stops are controlled by slider and pallet wind chests with electric pull-down action. Wind pressures range from 3 ¼" on the slider & pallet chests to 3 ½" and 4" for certain reeds and off-set stops, while the heroic Trompette Royale is on 10".

The Grand Orgue (G.O.) is a very complete division, and includes the French-influenced quartet of 8' foundations (principal, string, harmonic flute, stopped flute), a complete principal chorus including principal-scaled mutations, a fine blending Trompette, a bold five-rank Cornet, and the afore-mentioned Trompette Royale. These last two stops are available on other divisions as well as the G.O. for added flexibility.

The Positif is also a very complete division, based on an 8' Principal. The plenum is lighter and more transparent than that of the G.O. Here we find the traditional flute-scaled mutations – Nasard, Tierce and Larigot. A real luxury for this division is the inclusion of another Trompette, this one smaller scaled and brighter than the one on the G.O. A rich and versatile Cromorne completes this division.

The Récit features French-style strings, an 8' 4' 2' flute chorus (although not the typical Cavallé-Coll chorus of harmonic flutes), and a very fine Plein Jeu that breaks back by whole octaves twice giving much depth in the treble. The crowning glory of this division is the chorus of fiery reeds 16' 8' & 4'. A piquant Hautbois and Voix Humaine round out the tonal resources one would expect from a French-inspired Récit.

The Pédale is complete by any measure, containing a principal chorus 16' through mixture, a variety of secondary stops including an ever-so-useful open-tapered Cor de Chamois, and a battery of reeds 32' through 4'.

The console is large and elegant featuring curved terraces à la Cavallé-Coll. It is very comfortable to play. All the modern-day bells & whistles are here – 256 levels of memory, piston sequencer, record/playback, full compliment of couplers, and a G.O./Positif manual reversible.

This instrument represents a significant new addition to the Washington metro area pipe organ scene.

Grand Orgue (Manual I)

- 16' Quintaton (61 pipes, wood)
- 8' Montre (61 pipes)
- 8' Gambe (61 pipes)
- 8' Flûte Harmonique (61 pipes)
- 8' Bourdon (61 pipes, metal)
- 4' Prestant (61 pipes)
- 4' Flûte Octaviante (61 pipes)
- 2 2/3' Quinte (61 pipes)
- 2' Doublette (61 pipes)
- 1 3/5' Tierce (61 pipes)
- 8' Cornet V (220 pipes)
- 1 1/3' Fourniture IV (244 pipes)
- 8' Trompette (61 pipes)
- Tremblant
- 16' Trompette Royale (TC, from 8')
- 8' Trompette Royale (61 pipes, hooded)

Positif Expressif (Man. II)

- 8' Principal (61 pipes)
- 8' Bourdon (61 pipes, wood)
- 8' Flûte Celestes II (110 pipes)
- 4' Octave (61 pipes)
- 4' Flûte à Fuseau (61 pipes)
- 2 2/3' Nasard (61 pipes)
- 2' Quarte de Nasard (61 pipes)
- 1 3/5' Tierce (61 pipes)
- 1 1/3' Larigot (61 pipes)
- 1' Cymbale IV (244 pipes)
- 8' Trompette (61 pipes)
- 8' Cromorne (61 pipes)
- Tremblant
- 8' Cornet (G.O.)
- 8' Trompette Royale (G.O.)

Récit Expressif (Man. III)

- 8' Salicional (61 pipes)
- 8' Voix Céleste (FF, 56 pipes)
- 8' Flûte à Cheminée (61 pipes)
- 4' Prestant (61 pipes)
- 4' Flûte Conique (61 pipes)
- 2' Flûte à Bec (61 pipes)
- 2' Plein Jeu V (305 pipes)
- 16' Basson (61 pipes, bass with half-length resonators)
- 8' Trompette (61 pipes)
- 8' Hautbois (61 pipes)
- 8' Voix Humaine (61 pipes)
- 4' Clairon (61 pipes)
- Tremblant
- 8' Cornet (G.O.)
- 8' Trompette Royale (G.O.)



## Pédale

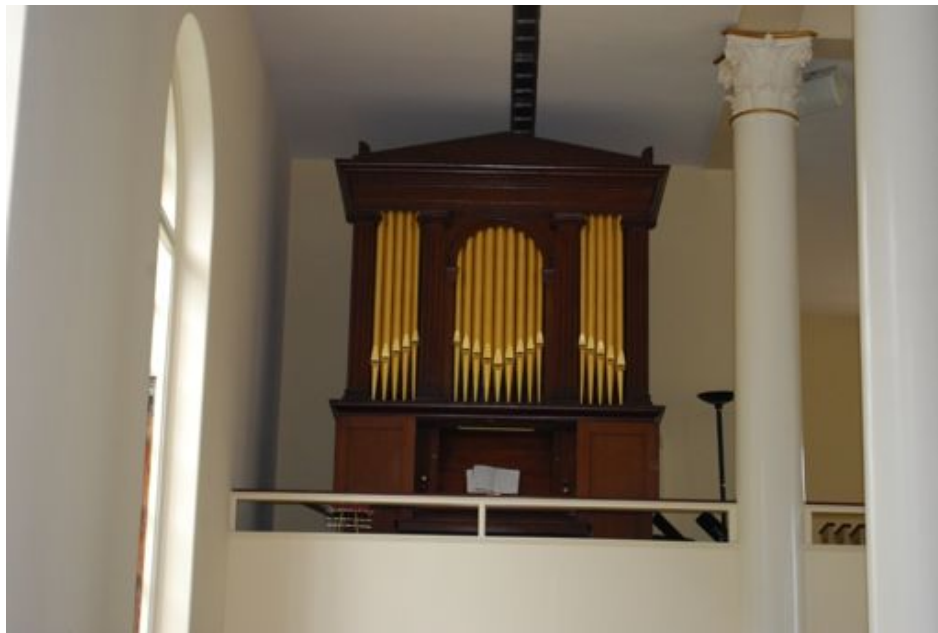
32'	Basse Acoustique (from Montre & Soubasse)
16'	Contrebasse (console preparation)
16'	Montre (32 pipes)
16'	Soubasse (32 pipes, wood)
16'	Quintaton (G.O.)
8'	Octave (32 pipes)
8'	Cor de Chamois (32 pipes)
8'	Bourdon (12 pipes, ext. Soubasse)
4'	Basse de Choral (32 pipes)
4'	Bourdon (12 pipes)
2 2/3'	Fourniture IV (128 pipes)
32'	Contre Bombarde (32 pipes, wooden resonators, 1-12 half-length)
16'	Bombarde (12 pipes)
16'	Basson (Récit)
8'	Trompette (32 pipes)
4'	Clairon (32 pipes)
8'	Trompette Royale (G.O.)



Although overshadowed by the Berghaus, there is a charming one-manual (no pedal) August Pomplitz and Henry Rodewald chamber organ built in Baltimore in 1859 for St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, Leeland, Maryland. It is presently located on the left side of the rear balcony of the church. It consists of five ranks of pipes...and produces a clear, robust sound, cheerful and colorful. The Gedeckt is big and full-toned, equal to supporting the 4' & 2' principals. The Dulciana is broad and full, truly an echo diapason, and the 4' Flute is utterly charming. The case is 11' tall and the façade pipes are gilt "dummies."

## Manual

8'	Gedeckt (stopped wood; bass and treble, div. E/F)
8'	Dulciana (open metal; from Tenor F)
4'	Principal (open metal)
4'	Flute (open wood)
2'	Fifteenth (open metal)



The other organ, also a one-manual, is located in the chapel and was built by Reuter in 1990. The mechanical chassis was provided to Reuter by Laukhuff. An unusual feature is the “GG-compass” manual inspired by 18<sup>th</sup> century English organs. An AGO pedal board with normal “C” compass is permanently coupled to the manual. Three stops are divided between bass & treble allowing for solo/accompaniment possibilities. This small but versatile organ adequately fills the chapel with pleasant tone.

Manual GG-f3 (no GG#)

8’ Stopped Diapason

4’ Flute

4’ “Wiecking” Principal (divided Tenor B / middle c)

2 2/3’ Twelfth (ditto)

2’ Fifteenth (ditto)

Zimbelstern (toe stud control)

Hitch-down Echo Pedal disengages Principals when depressed.



Following our time at St. John’s, we all enjoyed a delicious lunch at the nearby Silver Diner. We are especially grateful to Karl Robson for hosting us on rather short notice as other venues we had hoped to visit were unavailable. We will visit these on future crawls.