



The Brooklyn Bombarde

The Brooklyn Chapter of the American Guild of Organists Thanksgiving, 2006

Join Us on Saturday, November 18...!

I know how busy we all are. Church work involves practice, preparation, meetings, and probably a generous dose of computer time and—God help us—photocopier time. Many of us are also spoken for at synagogues, which have a different rhythm that usually dovetails well with the life of the church. Many of us teach. Many of us have “day jobs.” Many of us have families and obligations and other organizations. There are other clubs and societies besides the Guild! Then, of course, there’s grocery shopping...and oil changes...and so on.

We also have to contend with subways and highways and traffic jams and the scarcity of affordable car parking—or parking at any price at all. When I come off a bus or train, the first thing I want to do is hole up at home. It’s all understood and understandable.

But I have to acknowledge, despite everything, that I was let down by the turnout for our first program. It is not an inexpensive matter to bring in a speaker and recitalist and plan all the details of an event. Those of you who opted out of the October program missed a lot of interesting information and good music-making. More than one well-known Manhattan organist risked a case of the bends and traveled under the East River just to attend—and I heard much enthusiasm about the handouts that were provided and the repertoire presented.

That said, I do hope you’re going to come on Saturday November 18 to the Brooklyn Baptist Temple to help Keith Bigger celebrate his sixtieth birthday! It promises to be a fun event. The temple is near BAM and the Atlantic and Pacific subway station...and the Schermerhorn station, though that’s a longer walk.

The event runs from noon to four. Your Dean is coming off a Bar Mitzvah that morning, and will appear later on in the event. He hopes to see many of you having a wonderful time!

In January, we are taking part in a mini-convention in Queens in lieu of our usual Martin Luther King Day trip. It’s easier than getting to Philadelphia—our 2005 trip—or East Hampton CT—our 2005 trip. It’s only in Douglaston, for Pete’s sake! Please plan to take part. It will cost you much less than the Philly trip, and you’ll learn a lot and enjoy meeting and networking with your colleagues. Many leaders of the profession in this area will be speaking. Support them. Stand with them. Study with them. Let us grow strong together, on our own terms, doing what we know to be good and fruitful work.

It is also open season now through April 30 to plan to take the Service Playing Certificate. And the examination dates for the Colleague, Associate, Fellow, and Choirmaster exams are the 5th through 7th of June. There will be a second CAGO exam in November of 2007. These are very good exams and challenge one to grow. Plan to take one, regardless of your academic or professional standing. As a veteran of both the academic and the Guild schemas, I find them to be mutually reinforcing and very distinct. The academic process requires a broad grounding in music history and theory as well as organ performance. The Guild process is essentially the same as the traditional *concours* of the Paris Conservatory. Different emphasis, and a thorough examination of raw keyboard skills—transposition, registration, sight-reading, style, interpretation, and so on and so forth.

Go for it in 2007! You’ll be very glad you did.
See you on the 18th at the Brooklyn Baptist Temple!
Soli Deo Gloria! Vivat Rex Instrumentorum!

—Jonathan B. Hall, FAGO, dean

Officers, Board Members and Appointments

DEAN: Jonathan B. Hall, FAGO 917-596-4002
 SUB-DEAN: Gregory Eaton 212-924-4686
 SECRETARY: Hope Engelsen 718-836-1751
 TREASURER: Stephen Danziger, MD 718-398-3980
 REGISTRAR: Joseph Extejt 516-982-0103

Class of 2007:

Sylvester Nichols, J. David Williams, Rick Dennen

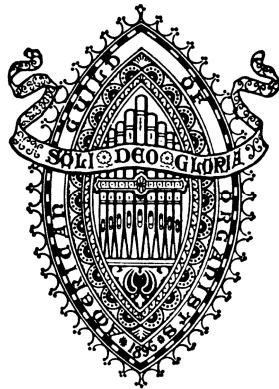
Class of 2008:

Tim Chun, Keith Bigger, Roger Castellani

Class of 2009:

Ray Trapp, Bruce Oelschlager, Mark Victor Smith
 Professional Concerns: Gregory Eaton 212-924-4963
 Archivist: Keith Bigger 718-875-1858, x160
 Placement: Julian Goodwin, AAGO 718-875-3542
 Chaplain: Fr. Thaddeus Grzelak

*The AGO National Website: www.agohq.org
 The American Guild of Organists
 475 Riverside Drive, Suite 1260
 NY NY 10115
 212-870-2310*



The Brooklyn Bombarde

Published from September to June,
 approximately
 Jonathan B. Hall, FAGO, Editor
 cell: 917-596-4002
jonathan@jonathanbhall.com

CHAPTER-SPONSORED EVENTS

Saturday, November 18, noon to 4 PM,
 Keith Bigger's "big six-oh" at Brooklyn
 Baptist Temple, Schermerhorn St.,
 downtown Brooklyn. Join us in saluting
 one of our most dedicated and imaginative
 members.

[Tentative]: Traditional "Twelfth-Night"
 party, January 7, 2007, at St. John's Church,
 Hamilton Heights. More details TBA.

MLK Day, Jan. 15, all day: our Mini-
 Convention! Plan to attend—it will be
 terrific.

PROGRAMS OF OUR MEMBERS

Every Wednesday, 1:10 PM. Free Recital at
 the Church of Saint Ann and the Holy
 Trinity, Montague and Clinton, the Heights.
 Usual recitalist is *titulaire* Gregory Eaton
 though you may also hear Mark Victor
 Smith, Ken Potter, or other guests tickle the
 abundant ivories.

We encourage all members to support one
 another by attendance at such programs as
 they can make. Bring friends, too!

And organists: please let the newsletter
 editor know of your upcoming recitals!

Looking Ahead: Mini-Convention!

On MLK Day, Jan. 15 2007, we're co-hosting
 an all-day mini-convention in Douglaston.
 This is part of the Queens Chapter's fiftieth
 birthday gala, and we're proud to be part of
 it. The event will be at the Community
 Church of Douglaston right off Northern
 Boulevard—a snap by car or LIRR. (Port
 Washington Branch—you'll have to come
 out of Penn or Woodside.) The modest cost
 for the day will be LESS than for our trips
 out of area. And what a wealth of
 information you'll gain! What good friends
 you'll make! What colleagues you'll
 network with! PLEASE plan to participate!

Flentrop Renovates Organ Queens College

Flentrop Orgelbouw of Zaandam, The Netherlands, has performed extensive work on the Maynard-Walker Memorial Organ in the Samuel J. & Ethel LeFrak Concert Hall at the Aaron Copland School of Music, Queens College, The City University of New York. The Maynard-Walker Organ, inspired by North-German and Dutch instruments of around 1700, was built by the Bedient Pipe Organ Company of Lincoln, NE in 1991 with 35 stops on three manuals (Hauptwerk, Oberwerk, Brustwerk) and pedal. The work on the Brustwerk was carried out in January 2006; the remainder of the work took place from June through August, 2006. Dr. Jan-Piet Knijff, organist-in-residence and a member of the performance faculty at the Copland School of Music, acted as consultant for the project.

The main part of Flentrop's work concerned the slider system of the organ, which contained no sealing of any kind. On every division, seals were applied on the top of the windchest and on the bottom of the toeboards in order to prevent ciphering and to improve the stop action. In addition, extensive work was done to improve the key action. To this end, the console was taken out of the organ and sent to the workshop in Zaandam, where the keys of Hauptwerk and Oberwerk were lengthened. Because the dimensions of the existing manual coupler (Hw/Ow) were such that regulating was in practice not possible, a new manual coupler was built. At the same time, the crew in New York replaced the valve springs of the Oberwerk, moving them to a mechanically more effective point closer to the action. The key dip of both Hauptwerk and Oberwerk was increased to 10 mm, that of the Brustwerk to nearly 9 mm.

Further work included the large façade pipes, which showed a tendency of sagging at the mouth. These pipes were reinforced by means of "ears" on either side of the mouth to prevent them from eventually collapsing under their own weight. Many of the smaller pipes inside the organ, damaged over time by excessive cone-tuning, were repaired and reinforced where necessary.

Finally, the voicing of the flue pipes was adjusted to the new situation with the improved slider system and key action. The wind pressure was lowered to 85 mm. Bearing in mind its frequent use for choral accompaniment and orchestral parts, the organ was tuned in a mildly unequal temperament (eight slightly narrow fifths, resulting in one Pythagorean third on D-flat), allowing for the use of keys with many accidentals, but still favoring those with fewer sharps or flats. The pitch is $a' = 442$ Hz.

Concurrently with the work on the Maynard-Walker Organ, Flentrop repaired the school's practice organ (II+P/5, built in 1985 by Nigel Church & Company of Stamfordham, UK and previously owned by the late Donald Joyce). A new blower was installed and minor corrections were made in the voicing, followed by a general tuning (equal temperament, $a' = 440$ Hz.). The Aaron Copland School of Music is especially pleased with the functional and tonal improvements on the Maynard-Walker Organ, which can now be considered one of the finest instruments for the music of the North German School and J.S. Bach in the New York metropolitan area, as well as with the added availability of a practice organ.

submitted by Jan-Piet Knijff, FAGO

RETURN ADDRESS:

Jonathan Hall
PO Box 1550
Grand Central Station
NY NY 10163-1550

MAIL TO:

Put this on your fridge with a magnet!

Saturday, November 18, 12-4: Keith Bigger's Excellent Adventure!

RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS!

January: Mini-Convention in Douglaston!