



PIPE NOTES

a publication of the Vermont Chapter
of The American Guild of Organists

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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATE

Esther Nui is working on a current membership directory. If your membership information has changed, please make sure that either Lynnette Combs or Esther Nui are aware of these changes. Their mailing addresses are: Esther Nui, 76 Stonefence Road, Richmond VT 05477 and Lynnette Combs, 18 Court Street, Montpelier VT 05602. When we have as accurate a membership directory as possible, a printed membership directory will be mailed to you. We are targeting either the end of December or January 2015 for this mailing.

COMING EVENTS

On **Sunday, November 2, 2014, at 4 p.m., First Baptist Church, 81 St. Paul Street, Burlington, Vermont, is celebrating the 150th birthday of its organ, E. & G.G. Hook, Opus 342, which has been in the church since October 1864 and is tonally unchanged.**

Come hear this wonderful instrument! Susan Summerfield, music professor at St. Michael's College in Colchester and former organist at First Baptist Church, will be joined by special friends in this celebratory concert.

Visit the chapter website to see pictures and read more.* The concert is free (donations are welcomed), and everyone is invited. There will be birthday cake!

*You can also contact the church at (802) 864-6515.

On **Sunday, November 2 at 3 p.m. in the Mead Memorial Chapel, Middlebury College Nathan Laube will offer an organ recital.** Concert organist Nathan Laube has quickly earned a place among the organ world's elite performers. His brilliant playing and gracious demeanor, coupled with his creative programming of repertoire spanning five centuries, have earned high praise from audiences, critics, and peers. Laube's highly anticipated return to Middlebury features a varied program that includes works by Bach, Widor, Whitlock, and Jongen. Laube offers a pre-concert

lecture at 2:15 p.m. in the chapel. Sponsored by the Performing Arts Series. Tickets: \$20/15/6. For more information e-mail: <http://go.middlebury.edu/laubel4>
For ticket information e-mail: <http://go.middlebury.edu/tickets>

On **Sunday, November 23, 2014** at 2 p.m., the **Unitarian Church of Montpelier** celebrates the start of its **150th Anniversary of the church and organ** with a return engagement **organ concert** by Theresa Pepin of Knoxville, Tennessee on the historic George Stevens pipe organ. Pepin will play works by Herbert Sumsion, Alfred Hollins, Alec Rowley, Christine Harmon, Gardner Read, David Bedford, and Bill Strayhorn. Admission by donation to benefit the organ. Information at www.unitarianchurchofmontpelier.org.

The combined **Northeast Kingdom Chorus** and **Cabot Community Chorus** will offer a **holiday concert** on **Friday, December 12** at 7:30 p.m. at the **United Church of Cabot** and on **Sunday, December 14** at 4 p.m. at the **Greensboro United Church of Christ**. Seasonal favorites will be heard performed by the whole chorus and by small groups. Lynn McKinney is the director, and Karen Miller is the accompanist.

THE KOTZSCHMAR RETURNS!

(We thank Kevin Bishop for his great review of this event.)

What fun attending the sold-out concert celebrating the triumphant return of the Kotzschmar Organ in the 2000 seat Merrill Auditorium in Portland, Maine on Saturday, September 27.

Organists were Portland Municipal Organist Ray Cornils and Wannamaker Grand Court Organist Peter Richard Conte.

Arriving 30 minutes before the program, we showed our tickets to an usher and were told to head up the stairs and not to stop till we bumped our heads. We had nose bleed seats in Merrill Auditorium! However, we could see and hear everything, even the ceiling-swelling ethereal division, which we were nearly sharing seats with. A Jumbo screen was set up with cameras focused on the console to accommodate easy viewing of busy hands and feet. These guys never pulled a stop, relying entirely on pistons. Mr. Cornils, when introducing a piece told us he would be playing using only one stop, and he then used a piston to pull it. Interesting.

The 1912 Austin was removed from its home nearly 3 years ago and taken to the Foley Baker Organ shop in Toland, Connecticut where it was rebuilt.

With 101 ranks and nearly 7000 pipes, this famous organ retains its unique voice. A few minor changes were done but most exciting is a new 32' Contra Bombarde and a 32' Major Bass. Both had been removed and discarded in an earlier auditorium remodel to make more stage room. Of note to Estey fans are pipes 1-12 of the Major Bass: they are Haskells!

Included in the musical works was a world premiere by Carson Cooman, Concertino FOKO (friend of the Kotzschmar Organ) Op. 1073 for organ and brass. A 12-piece brass orchestra accompanied several selections and was conducted by Peter Conte.

Music offered was by Bach, Sowerby, Guilmant, Karg-Elert, and Vierne. Of note was a fun piece entitled "Leviathan March" composed by Hermann Kotzschmar. Mr. Kotzschmar was a leading musician in Portland toward the end of the 19th century,

and it is in his name that Cyrus Curtis donated the splendid organ to the city in 1912.

After intermission we stood to sing our National Anthem accompanied by organ and brass. A new experience. You could not hear yourself singing! It was wonderful.

CHAPTER NOTES

Membership forms are now overdue. If you have not returned your membership renewal, please do it soon. Sixteen members still have not returned their membership forms, including some officers.

One of the ways that you can support your Vermont AGO Chapter is by attending events and recitals planned and prepared by your fellow members. Your attendance and support is much appreciated.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the December issue of **Pipe Notes** will be November 20. We are approaching the holiday season. Be sure that you send any organ-choir concerts in your area to the newsletter editor to share with all our membership.