



Principal Pipings

Vol. 68, Issue 6 January, 2013

Greetings from the dean

Hello AGO Friends,

I hope that you're getting a little R&R after the busyness of the holiday season! Just don't get so relaxed and pulled away from the music scene that you forget about our two upcoming chances to interact with your AGO colleagues. Our "whew-we-made-it-through-all-the-Advent-and-Christmas-music" social on January 11th will give everyone some time to just kick back and enjoy being together while vicariously experiencing Schuyler Robinson's European organ adventures. I'm going to have to miss this one because I'll be out of town, but I'm sure you'll all have a marvelous time under Bonnie's capable leadership.

Shortly thereafter, on January 22nd, is Alan Morrison's recital in Louisville that our chapter is co-sponsoring with the Louisville AGO chapter. We hope to have a large Lexington contingent on hand. Let's try to organize some carpools so everyone who wants to go will have the opportunity. If you can drive, or if you need a ride, please let me know and I'll see what can be worked out.

Here's wishing you all a happy, healthy 2013, with the continued blessings that music brings. Happy New Year!

Jane



Region V Convention



Region V
Convention
Kalamazoo, Michigan
June 30 - July 3, 2013

Top artists and presenters.
Magnificent instruments.
15 workshop choices,
including a Choral Academy
with daily rehearsals and a
concluding performance.

All just a short walk
from our four-star hotel
in arts-energized Kalamazoo
and a short, free bus ride
to historic Battle Creek.

Great Times in Swell Towns!
One fee covers it all.

www.AGOKalamazoo.org

The website for our Region V Convention is UP and RUNNING: www.agokalamazoo.org. Registration on-line is now open -- please take note of the excellent pricing, including:

Students -- whether AGO members or not -- just \$100.00

Spouses/Partners of AGO members at AGO member price

Bus transportation INCLUDED

Three meals INCLUDED

Optional Choral Academy INCLUDED

Complimentary breakfasts for hotel guests

Performances and workshops by a roster of Region V royalty, and national/international as well

All events within convenient short walking distance of each other

Complimentary mobility transport for those who desire it

We look forward to seeing EVERYONE with us in Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, June 30 - July 3, 2013.

Brooks Grantier, FAGO, Publicity Committee

Certifiable

Robert Whitaker, CAGO, ChM Education Chair

Have you ever considered taking the time to make a concerted and concentrated effort at developing and improving your skills as an organist? The Guild provides just what you need in order to do just that. As the first reason for becoming certified states,

“The Guild has provided a ready-made program for you to develop and improve your organ skills. Preparation for the exams strengthens you in areas that you use all the time: sight-reading, transposition, modulation, improvisation, accompaniment, and hymn playing.” (American Guild of Organists, Certification Program: A Chapter Guide for Promotion, Preparation, and Participation, p. 6.)

When I finally decided to work towards certification as an organist it was for two reasons: I felt I needed a credential in organ (I studied as a choral conductor) and I wanted to work on becoming a better organist, not just for myself but for the congregation I serve as well. I thoroughly examined which level would be most appropriate for my skill level and chose to work on the Colleague certificate. Next, I received the necessary materials, i.e. application, past exams, study guide, and began to prepare in earnest for the exam. I began about 5 months before the date of the exam and made sure to set aside some time each day to work on learning the required repertoire. I also dedicated time each day to working on the skills in which I knew I needed the most practice: sight-reading, transposition, and modulation.

For sight-reading I spent at least 10 minutes a day playing through unfamiliar pieces similar to the examples provided by the Guild. It was a slow process and frustrating at first, but as time went on I found myself becoming more and more adept at keeping my eyes moving forward on the score without dwelling on it too much and keeping a steady tempo. I just had to stick with it!

Preparation for transposition and modulation was not quite as difficult as the sight-reading but presented their own challenges. For modulation practice, I would take two hymns in different keys and time signatures and work on making a transition between the two as if one were immediately following the other with no break. When working on transposition, I would just open the hymnal to any hymn and transpose and play the hymn four times, one and two half-steps up and down.

I practiced like this on a near daily basis until the day of the exam and the results were well worth the efforts. My playing over that period improved and I became a more confident and sensitive musician in the process.

Please consider taking the time to become certified by the AGO. There are four levels of certification for organists: Service Playing, Colleague, Associate, and Fellow; as well as a certificate for Choirmasters. I'd be happy to talk with you about AGO certification. Feel free to contact me anytime at RFWhitakerChM@gmail.com.

Area Events

FRI / 01.11.13

7:00p

Lexington AGO Sponsored Event

**Members' Social and a French/German Organ Tour
Sights and Sounds by Schuyler Robinson**

Wesley Village Community Center, Wilmore

TUE / 01.22.13

12:10p

Charlie Mitchell, Organ Recital

Hughes Auditorium, Asbury University, Wilmore

TUE / 01.22.13

7:30p

Lexington AGO Sponsored Event

Alan Morrison, Organ Recital

Joint meeting with Louisville AGO, St. Agnes Church, Louisville

SUN / 01.27.13

2:00p

Christ the King Concert Series

**The Women's Choirs of Lexington Catholic H.S.
and Lexington Christian Academy**

Cathedral of Christ the King, Lexington

SAT / 02.02.13

10:00a

Louis Braille: The Man Behind the Console

Christ Church United Methodist, Louisville

TUE / 02.19.13

12:20p

David K. Lamb, Organ Recital

Ransdell Chapel, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville

THU / 02.21.13

8:00p

Wesley Roberts, Organ Recital

Ransdell Chapel, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville

SAT / 02.23.13

Lexington AGO Sponsored Event

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Event Details

A French/German Organ Tour: Sights and Sounds by Schuyler Robinson

Members' Social to Follow Lexington Chapter's January Event

FRI / 01.11.13

7:00p

Wesley Village Community Center
1125 Lexington Rd., Wilmore, KY

Travel with Schuyler to France and Germany to see and hear the organs that he encountered during his summer 2012 tour. Bring finger food to share for a social time following the program.

Wilmore is easily accessible from Lexington and environs, and not as far away as you think! It's a curve-less, 4-lane-all-the-way drive. From Lexington, go West on Hwy 68 (Harrodsburg Rd), or you can approach 68W from 27 South (Nicholasville Rd) by way of the Wilmore exit onto 29S. Either way, when you arrive at the 29S/68W stoplight intersection, proceed .6 miles on 68W to the "Y" in the road (at the Marathon service station). Turn left at the "Y" onto 29, following the sign directing you to Wilmore/Asbury University. After a 1-mile drive through idyllic Wilmore countryside, turn right into Wesley Center. At the stop sign inside the entrance, turn right again. The Community Center is on the left, recognized by its large, lighted, cupola-topped, covered portico. It's a beautiful venue, with a great projection system, and home to Gerard Faber's Johannes organ. Join us for a relaxing finish to the busy holiday season!

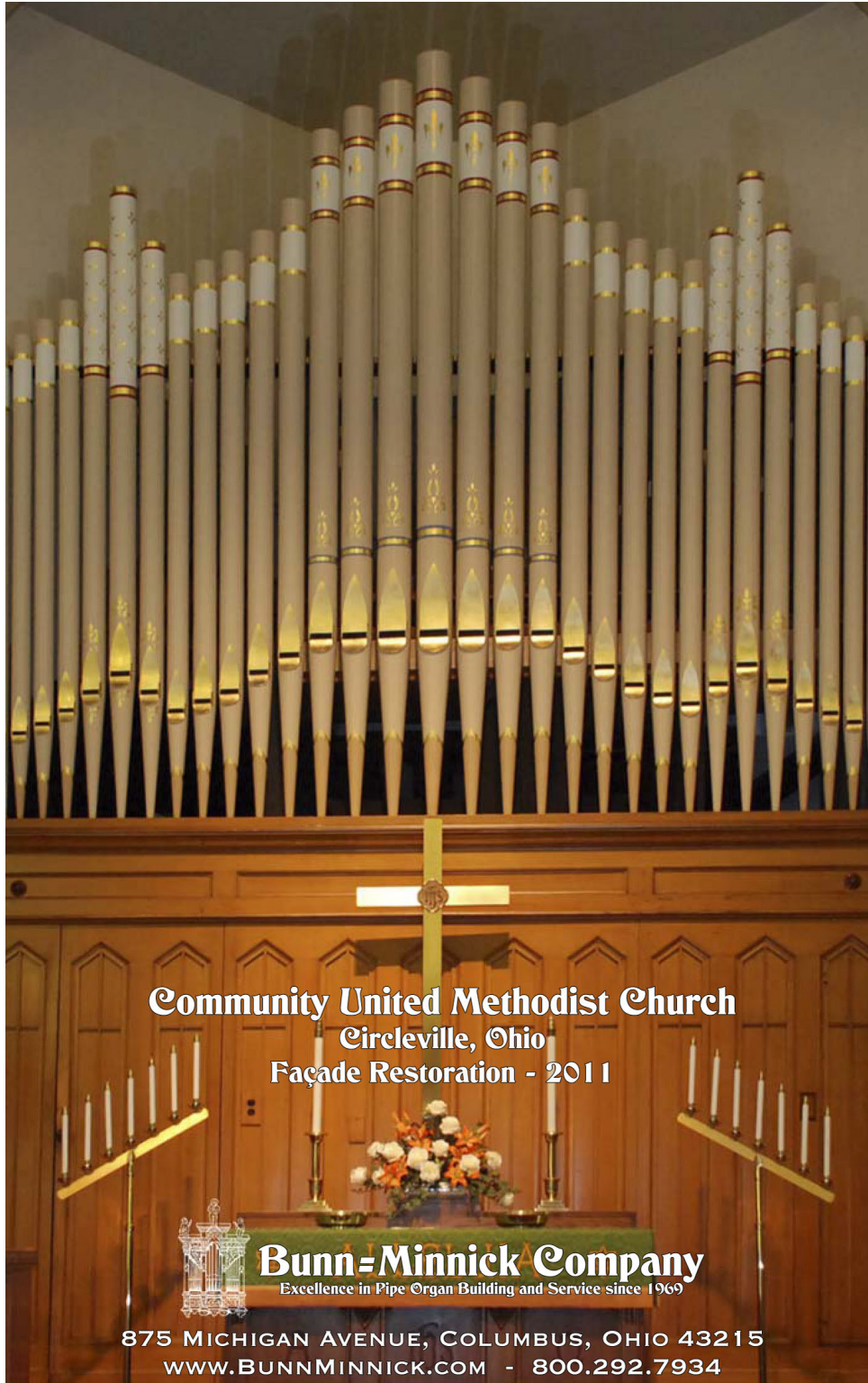
Bonnie

Where in the world was Schuyler Robinson?

The pictures in the newsletter last month were submitted by Schuyler Robinson, taken during his visit to St. Thomas Church, Leipzig, Bach's church from 1723 - 1750. Come hear all about this amazing trip Friday night in Wilmore!



Principal Pipings is published ten times annually by the Lexington, KY AGO Chapter. The chapter also maintains the web site www.agolexington.org.

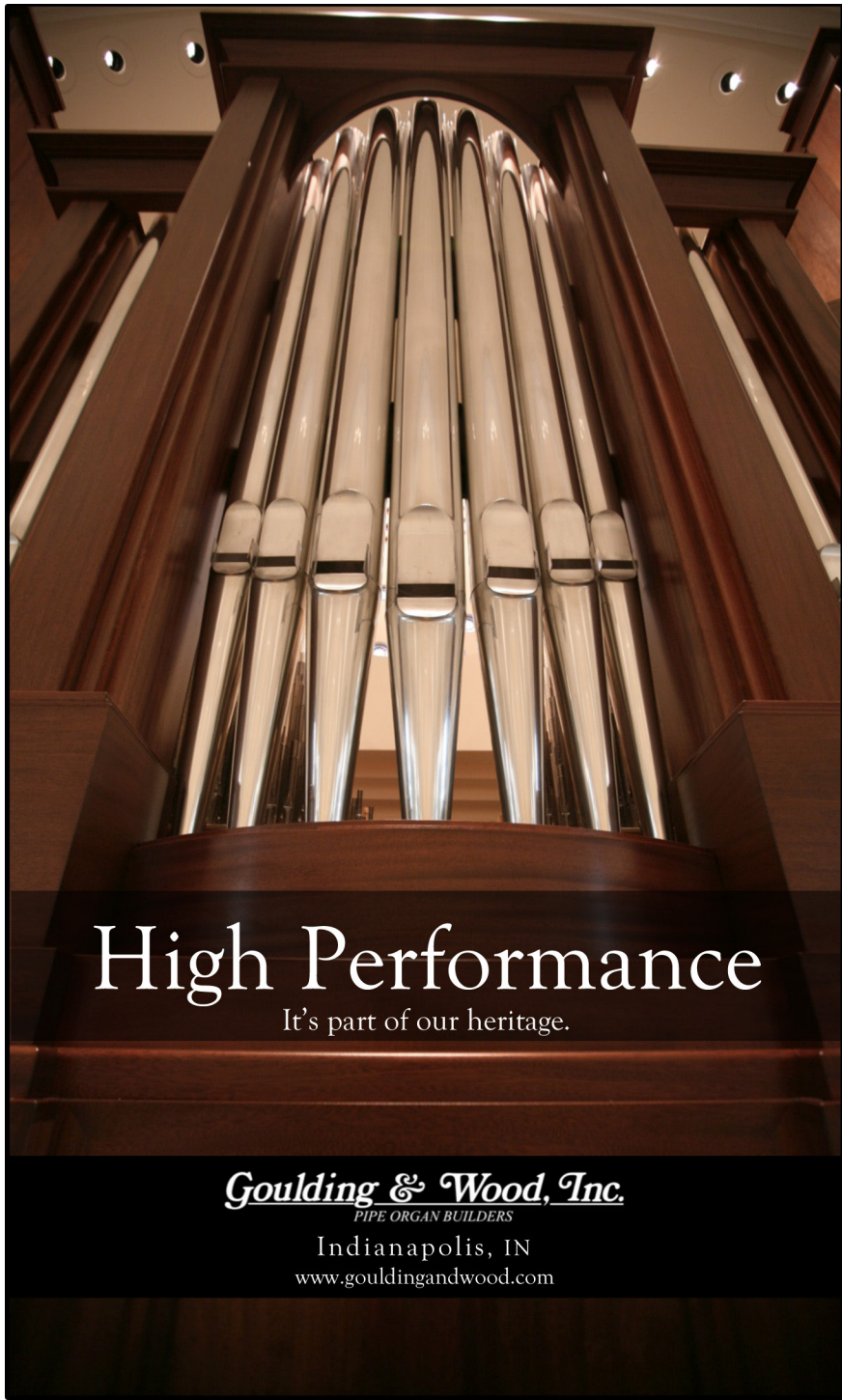


Community United Methodist Church
Circleville, Ohio
Façade Restoration - 2011



Bunn-Minnick Company
Excellence in Pipe Organ Building and Service since 1969

875 MICHIGAN AVENUE, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
WWW.BUNNMINNICK.COM - 800.292.7934



High Performance

It's part of our heritage.

Goulding & Wood, Inc.

PIPE ORGAN BUILDERS

Indianapolis, IN

www.gouldingandwood.com