

# African American Presbyterian

"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John VIII:32

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## THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING — RECITALS — CHORAL PROGRAMS — ADDRESSES — RELIGIOUS SERVICES

By Dr. Thomas A. Long

Music is one of the strongest unifying factors among all peoples. The American Guild of Organists of the United States and Canada is a cultural organization foremost in insuring a high type of musical expression. The fifteenth annual meeting of the American Guild was held in Pittsburgh, Pa., the last week in June this year, 1936. Pittsburgh is easily the center of steel manufacturing interests. Music in an atmosphere of steel is unique in coordination—symbolic of strength, physical and social. Pittsburgh is beautiful for location, situated at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers, forming the Ohio, flanked by the Allegheny Mountains. Fort Duquesne and the old Block House here gave a historic touch and called to mind that George Washington, nearly two hundred years ago, surveyed the spot. "The Cathedral of Learning" (Skyscraper Hall, University of Pittsburgh), The Carnegie Institute of Technology, The Mellon Institute (the two Andrews) gave the academic touch.

More than five hundred Organists and Musicians gathered here from all parts of the United States and Canada.

In addition to the usual groups of recitals, there were Choral and three Religious services. In this year's meeting, special emphasis was laid on Choral music and educational features.

The local committee, with Dr. Herbert C. Peabody, Chairman, had every detail well in hand and the week's program of events was pronounced an unqualified success and flawless.

The officers are:

Warden, Charles H. Doersam, F. A. G. O.  
Sub-Warden, Wm. C. Carl, Mus. D., A. G. O.  
General Secretary, Ralph A. Harris.  
Chaplain, Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick.

Some among the Council are: Samuel A. Baldwin, Norman Coke-Jephcott, Seth Bingham, Charles Heinroth, Harold Vincent Milligan, T. Tertius Noble, George Volkel, David McK. Williams, Grace Leeds Darnell, Frank Wright, R. H. Woodman.

The Guild's Purposes:

(a) To advance the cause of worthy church music; to elevate the status of the church organists; and to increase their appreciation of their responsibilities, duties and opportunities as conductors of worship.

(b) To raise the standard of efficiency of organists by examinations in organ playing, in the theory of music and in general music knowledge; and to grant certificates of Fellowship and Associateship to members of the Guild who pass such examinations.

(c) To provide members with opportunities for meetings, for the discussion of professional topics, and to do other such lawful things as are incidental to the purpose of the Guild.

Convention headquarters were at Schenley Hotel, Schenley Park. The center of musical activities was at Carnegie Institute. The first, on Monday night, in the series of programs was a concert by the Pittsburgh String Symphonic Ensemble of thirty-one members. The compositions played were Mozart's "Serenade," Rousset's "Sinfonietta," the three "Acuarelas Volencianas," by Chavarrri.

Mr. Del Bianco, the conductor, closed the concert with an organ number, Bach's Fugue in A Minor. A great ovation was given. A social hour followed

at the Bellefield Presbyterian church.

Tuesday

Mayor Wm. N. McNair, Tuesday morning in Carnegie Hall, gave the welcome address saying, in handing over the keys, that Pittsburgh is unique as a municipality, in that no taxes are levied. Dr. Charles H. Doersam, the Warden, was introduced as no king, no "il duce," nor dictator, but an able executive. Dr. Doersam, in response, pointed out the character of the program and the hospitality of the local organists as assurance of the success of the meeting.

Following this, Marshall Buwell, organist of Carnegie Music Hall, and of Third Presbyterian church, gave a recital on the grand organ. Bach's "Pascaglia" "Chorale Prelude Nun Komm," der Heiden Heiland, Allegro (Sonata E Flat), Finale from Harvey B. Gaul's "Sinfonia Liturgica," with theme "O Filii," and Bedel's "Noel with Variations," "Allegro Scherzando" from Saint-Saens' Concerto in G Minor. The recital closed with Richard Strauss' Symphonic poem, "Death and Transfiguration." This recital was superb and a high spot of the week. (Aeolian-Skinner organ.)

Tuesday afternoon at Third Street Presbyterian church, on the New Skinner Organ, Dr. Greenhouse Alt, of Edinburgh, Scotland, was the recitalist. Dr. Alt is Master of Music at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Organist of Edinburgh University and Conductor of the Royal Choral Union.

Marked interest was manifested in his performance in that it was an example of the best in the British Isles to-day. His was sturdy, dignified playing characteristic of the English, but to the American, characteristically different in temperament, it would be lacking in color and flexibility.

The first group was from English composers, Stanley, Russell and Purcell of the 17th and 18th centuries. "Capriccio" by Capocci; Bach's Fantasia in G Major (seldom played); Schumann's Fugue on B-A-C-H; "Rosymedre" (Prelude) by Vaughn Williams, a lilting effectiveness; Parry's Prelude on "The Old 104th," and Elgar's Pompous "Imperial March," were given an authoritative and forceful reading. The Guild was happy in according to Dr. Alt an ovation as an exponent of the highest type of British organ playing.

(Incidentally, the late Mrs. Johnson C. Smith and Mrs. Wm. Thaw were members of this church, the Third Presbyterian.

Jewish Service

A fine feature of the convention was a service of rare beauty according to the Jewish Ritual, at Rodef Shalom Temple. Dr. Harvey B. Gaul directed the choral society of the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Associations, in singing the impressive "Havodath Hakodesh" (sacred service) by Block, Charles A. H. Pearson, organist and choir director at the Temple, gave skilled and artistic support at the Kimball Organ, while Miss Lucy Balter ably supported at the piano the excellent singing by the chorus. Frederick Baer, baritone of New York, was the very pleasing soloist. The whole service was beautiful and most impressive.

The Diapason prize of \$100 for the best organ composition was awarded George Mead, Assistant Organist at Trinity church, New York.

Evening Service

The Mendelssohn Chorus Choir of Pittsburgh sang Bach's Mass in B Minor. This colossal Choral work was superbly ren-

dered by this famous choir, directed by Ernest Lunt, Miss Ann Root, leading soloist, with a well balanced organ support by Homer C. Wickline, who played also as a prelude to the Mass, Chorale Preludes, "Wir glauben all," "Herzlich thut mich Verlaugen," and Bach's Prelude in B Minor.

Wednesday's Services

Harold W. Gilbert, of St. Peter's Choir School, Philadelphia, gave a talk on the activity of the Diocesan Music Commission of Philadelphia.

Dr. Dayton C. Miller of the Case School of Applied Science, Cleveland, Ohio, gave a lecture on the "Science of Musical Sounds". The lecture, illustrated with charts and apparatus, gave in detail the origin and character of sound. Dr. Miller was introduced as the most renowned physicist of this country.

Dr. Francis W. Snow of Boston, versatile and artistic, was outstanding in his recital at Carnegie Music Hall. He gave the first public performance of Garth Edmundson's New "Apostolic Symphony". Dr. Edmundson, of New Castle, Pa., was in the audience. Other numbers were Farnum's Toccata on "O Filii et Filiae," Delemater's "Carillon", Gigout Scherzo and Karg-Elert's "Legend of the Mountain."

In the Edmundson Symphony are three movements: "Chaos and Prophecy", "A Carpenter is Born", and "Crucifixion and Fruition." Final numbers were Vienne's Scherzo (Sixth Symphony) and an encore, Vienne's "Carillon"

Dr. Philip S. Waters, President of the Hymn Society of America, in a brief address, spoke of the Ministers' and Organists' Responsibility for saving music which would save worship, while worship would soon save religion as the one means of saving humanity. He mentioned three laws for making worship what it should be: the law of unity and coherence, the law of progression and the law of climax.

Dr. William Erhart, director of music in the Pittsburgh schools, gave an address on work being done in the public schools of America in training the youth to be musically active and to appreciate the value of music.

Dr. Erhart's address was supplemented by practical evidence by the Orchestra of the Taylor Aldrich High School in three numbers, conducted by Miss Laura Zeigler, and the capella choir of the Peabody High School, directed by Miss Florence Shute. They sang works from Bach, Burleigh, Russian Chorales and Folk Songs, all with beautiful tone, clear enunciation and technical proficiency.

Dr. Wm. Chalmers Covert of Philadelphia, former Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, spoke on "Hymns, Organs and Humanity", saying that there is now a better cooperation between minister and organist than ever before. He said the Guild had done much to bring this about. He paid tribute to Andrew Carnegie for his contribution of six million dollars for organs. He stated that humanity needs more than ever before what the organ and the hymn and the church service provide.

Wednesday Night — East Liberty Church

A congregation that completely filled the magnificent East Liberty Presbyterian church witnessed the annual religious service, which was really the peak of the week's offerings. The new church is the last word in architectural beauty and appointment.

After the ecclesiastic and academic procession of clergy, officials, members and choirs, all in the vestments of their status, Miss Poteat of Dallas, Texas,

opened the service with Liszt's Prelude and Fugue "B-A-C-H". Bach's Choral Prelude on "Tribam Dich Mein", Fugue in D Major and the Adagio from Widor's Fifth Symphony. The service was sung by the combined choirs of the three large Episcopal churches—the Church of the Ascension, Calvary church and Trinity Cathedral. Dr. Harvey B. Gaul of Calvary church conducted. Dr. Alfred Hamer, of Trinity church was at the grand organ, a magnificent New Aeolian-Skinner, recently installed. The choir numbers were Processional hymn; Nunc dimittis and Magnificat by Horatio Parker; anthem, David D. Wood's "The Twilight Shadows Fall"; Bulig New 150th Psalm was the offertory; Arthur Whiting's Te Deum in A Major, and Hamer's Benedictus. The recessional hymn was "Rejoice, the Lord is King", a stirring recessional by Dr. Herbert C. Peabody of the Church of the Ascension, and Chairman of the local committee.

Dr. Hugh T. Kerr, pastor of the Shadyside Presbyterian church, delivered the address in which he asked for a definite place of honor in the church for the organist. He cited the importance of music from the time when David calmed Saul's spirit with his harp to the present, and stated that the organist has a place of his own as he alone can expel the evil spirits.

F. C. McKinstry of Springfield, Mass., played as postlude, Bach's Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C, bringing the service to a fitting and reverent close. Incidentally, Mrs. Agnes B. Snively and Mrs. Larimer, of the staff of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions, are members of this church, East Liberty Presbyterian, Mrs. Larimer was at this service.

Thursday

A series of brief lectures was scheduled for Thursday morning. Dr. Albert Reimenschneider, of Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio, presented the subject: "Bach and the Organist". The lecturer is one of the best present day authorities on the interpretation of Bach. His point of view was very illuminating as to the proper interpretation of the Chorale Preludes and Bach in general. He showed the importance of studying and knowing the words in the original German form, and the fine symbolism underlying the whole conception. For illustration, he played the Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major, illustrating symbolism and the Trinity as the basis of conception of the Prelude and the Fugue. "The Old Year Now Hath Passed away", Chorale Prelude, showed the three ways Bach portrayed grief and the depths of unfathomed emotion.

Dr. Harvey B. Gaul was the Chairman of a Symposium with the following speakers: Mr. Morten J. Luvaas, of Allegheny College, topic, "Adult Choirs." He spoke of his methods and policies, saying that "your choir is a picture of yourself, simply exemplifying your ideas of tone, technique and form."

Mr. Harold W. Gilbert, of Philadelphia, recounted his method of dealing with boys, their voices, and his responsibility as a Choir Master in shaping the lads' characters.

Miss Grace Leeds Darnell, of New York, was happy in her remarks in respect to the training of Junior Choirs and Children. The Symposium was suggestive.

The morning recital, following the Symposium, was given at the Church of the Ascension, one of Pittsburgh's beautiful churches, by Mrs. Ethel S. Brett, of Sacramento, California.

The program was: Franck's Chorale in E Major, Farnum's Toccata on "O Filii", Stamitz "Andante", Boex "Marche Champetre", and Hagg's "Af-

tonfried". The fine qualities of the Aeolian-Skinner Organ were brought out to advantage in technique and registration.

Dr. Charles N. Boyd, of Pittsburgh, gave a brief address on the life of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, the Alsatian Physician-musical missionary. This address was designated as given "On one of God's noblemen or one of America's noblemen."

Dr. Casper Koch, eminent musician, analyzed the Julius Reubke Sonata, "The Ninety-fourth Psalm." The composition was given in a brilliant manner by Mr. Parvin Lucas, of Cincinnati.

The Madrigal Choir of Carnegie Institute of Technology, directed by Hulda Jane Kenley, sang a group of seventeenth century Madrigals. These were followed by Roger's Cantata, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded", with soloists, Margaret Spaulding, soprano, Mabel King, contralto; accompaniment, violin, oboe, with Robert Reuter at the organ and Edward John, director. This was a performance of rare beauty.

Thursday Evening

Solemn Vespers were the very beautiful and impressive service Thursday evening at Sacred Heart church. The immense edifice was filled to overflowing. Dr. Thomas F. Coakley officiated. Edgar Bowman, the organist, and a large, well trained choir of boys and men and an auxiliary choir of girls, gave "Salva Regina", by Lotti; "Ave Verum", by Byrd, and "Tantum Ergo", by Victoria, sixteenth and seventeenth century works, and the Gregorian "Te Deum." These renditions were beautiful. The Prelude was by Mages "Grand Jeu", and the Postlude was, Fugue and Chaconne of Buxtehude. Beautiful music and devotion marked this service.

At Calvary church, later, Claude L. Murrey, of the University of Florida, on the excellent Moller Organ, played the following recital: Jonger's "Sonata Eroica"; Stanley's Concerto in G Major; "Allegretto Grazioso", by Roland Diggle; "Wind and the Grass", Harvey B. Gaul (the organist and Choirmaster of this church); Garth Edmundson's "Imagery in Tableaux"; Sowersby's "Fantasy", (for flute stops); Firmin Swinnen's "Sunshine", Toccata from the "Longwood Sketches". The performance was a brilliant one.

Friday

At a brief meeting Friday morning there were reports of Committees on various activities. The Resolutions Committee warmly commended Dr. Herbert C. Peabody, Chairman of the local Committee, and his associates for the fine executive service rendered. Sharing with these were the organizations, churches, recitalists and all who had a part in making the convention a success.

Cincinnati's invitation, presented by Joseph Schehl, was accepted, and that will be the Convention City for June, 1937. Hartford, Conn., made a strong plea for the 1937 meeting, presented by Joseph S. Daltry.

Dr. Carl Whitmer, of New York, had charge of a Seminar on Improvisation of the Church Service. Valuable points were brought out in a practical way on the mechanical, mental and emotional side of the subject.

James Philip Johnson, organist of the Church of the Holy Innocents, Brooklyn, N. Y., illustrated on the organ in a most illuminating way, Dr. Whitmer's method of improvisation. Charles A. Woods, Jr., of Sewickley, Pa., was presented the Wicks "Fuga" organ, as the winner of the coupon contest.

The Allegheny Singers—Outstanding

The Allegheny Singers, a student group from Allegheny Col-

## THE PRESBYTERY OF McCLELLAND IN FALL SESSION

The Presbytery of McClelland convened with the Irmo First Presbyterian church, Irmo, S.C., Sept. 3rd last, at 7:30 P. M. The opening sermon was preached by the retiring Moderator, the Rev. H. Y. Kennedy, Text, 1 Cor. 3:9.

The Rev. L. E. Ginn was unanimously chosen moderator and the Rev. H. Y. Kennedy was made Clerk Pro tem.

The Rev. D. T. Murray and ruling Elder A. P. Butler, commissioners to the last General Assembly, gave splendid reports of the work of the Assembly. They were given a vote of thanks for their fidelity.

The Revs. C. W. Francis and J. G. Porter, D. D., were nominated principal and alternate ministerial commissioners to the next General Assembly, respectively. Ruling Elders E. G. Keeder and S. W. Allen were nominated principal and alternate lay commissioners, respectively, to the next General Assembly.

The Revs. D. T. Murray and J. D. Taylor were granted their letters of dismissal to units with the Presbyteries of Hodge and Cape Fear, respectively. The Rev. L. A. Ellis was granted permission to labor without the bounds of the Presbytery.

The Revs. E. W. Allen, Presbytery of Fairfield; A. A. Thompson, Jr., Presbytery of Hodge; A. H. George, and L. B. West, D. D., Presbytery of Catawba, and M. R. Flack, Presbytery of Fairfield, were granted seats of corresponding members of the Presbytery. The above named gentlemen made brief remarks and brought greetings from their Presbyteries.

Mr. P. A. Patterson was examined in all branches of subjects for licensure and ordination to the gospel ministry. His examinations were satisfactory to the Presbytery and Mr. Patterson was duly licensed and ordained to preach the gospel wherever God in His Providence may call him. The name of the Rev. Mr. Patterson was added to the roll of Presbytery.

The Revs. J. D. Porter, D. D., C. W. Francis, H. Y. Kennedy and L. E. Ginn, Chairmen of the Committees on the Boards of Christian Education, National Missions, Foreign Missions and Pensions, respectively, made splendid reports. Dr. L. B. West, Field Representative, and the Rev. A. H. George spoke to the reports on the Boards of National Missions and Christian Education, respectively.

The Rev. A. H. George, of Johnson C. Smith University, preached a fine sermon to the Presbytery at the close of the morning session.

Friday evening was given over to the Women's Presbyterian for a popular meeting. A candle light service was portrayed by the members of the Women's Presbyterian, directed by Mrs. J. H. Toatley. Dr. L. B. West was the guest speaker. It is needless to say anything concerning the address of Dr. West. As usual, he gave a good account of himself. Mrs. A. P. Butler, President, gracefully presided.

The Irmo First Presbyterian church entertained the Presbytery in her usual style. This is one of the churches that never shirks her duty and even goes beyond her obligations. This year the Presbytery was practically out in the woods for a place to meet. It was through the kindness of Dr. Porter and his congregation that we found a debt of gratitude to the pastor and his people for their open arms of reception and hospitality.

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