

Dean's Message for November, 2016



Unlikely. Unbelievable. Improbable. Incredible. Those are some of the adjectives that came to mind as I read two emails I received in the past two weeks.

You see, I was planning on writing this month about what our Chapter might do to encourage young pianists to take up the study of the organ or assist pianists who have been recruited to play the organ for church services.

The first email was from Isabelle Demers, Assistant Professor at Baylor University, writing on behalf of the AGO Committee on the New Organists. She writes, "CONO is a newly formed committee whose primary goal is to provide pianists and entry-level organists ('new organists') with educational resources that will enable them to increase their skill level at the organ." The committee is creating a list of organ teachers per region/area, including people willing to teach via Facetime, Skype, or other lesson types. The list will be posted on the CONO's webpage. The information requested can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. We also could create a section on our own website for this information.

The second email was from Anne Laver, Assistant Professor & University Organist at Syracuse University. She is compiling a list of events and programs sponsored by AGO chapters that are designed to engage and recruit young organists. The list she has compiled so far includes some opportunities we might consider offering.

On the chapter level we could offer:

- **Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza** program where piano students are introduced to the pipe organ and given the opportunity to play a piano piece on the organ.
- **POE+** A program for students 19 years and older who want to play the organ, or want to improve their organ skills.

On an individual level we could:

- Start an **Organist's Assistant Program**. In this program, grade school/junior high school students sit on the bench with you turning pages, pushing pistons and tapping toe studs during the service. I've done this and can provide you with details about how to set up the program.
- Teach an informative lesson about the organ during the Sunday School hour or during Vacation Bible School. Opportunities might also exist to reach the adults in your congregation. They are as curious about the organ as are the youngsters.

There are certainly many more possibilities.

Interested in discussing and making recommendations to the Executive Board for chapter educational outreach? Let me know (cdgrace62@gmail.com).

Dwane Grace
Dean