

Creative Hymn Playing Workshop by Dr Michael Burkhardt

By Dr Evelyn Lim & Suzanne Lau



Re-thinking Carols & Hymns:
In session with Dr Burkhardt

American composer and organist Dr Michael Burkhardt (USA) revisited Singapore in December 2018 and this time held a workshop on creative hymn playing at the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd.

The session was well received, as there were over 30 organists in attendance. The attendees that evening definitely brought back many tips from fingering and pedal technique to proper posture in organ-playing.

The workshop was also timely in view with the Advent and Christmas season, where attendees are inspired to bring new interpretation of well-loved carols to their respective churches and parishes.

Visit to the Matthieu Garnier Continuo Organ at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory

By Yap Wai Hoong; Photo by Suzanne Lau



Members had the opportunity to visit a lovely instrument during November and December 2018. At the Steven Baxter Recital Studio at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory was a 10-stop, 5-rank Mattieu Garnier continuo organ. Each rank was controlled by 2 stops - the bass side and the treble side, with Middle 'C' as the splitting point. This kind of split-keyboard arrangement allows the flexibility of using a solo plus accompaniment combination when the music requires it. The keys are shorter than of the modern-day pianos. Players may resort to historical fingering patterns instead of modern ones. Despite its size, this organ produces a hearty tone and volume, requiring the player to work with clear articulation.

Message From The Dean

Full steam ahead!

As the new year unfolds, we are charged up with new inspiration, motivation and resolution in our lives and work. And so it is as well for our Chapter -- in addition to concerts and masterclasses, our stronger focus on music education this year will feature a 6-day music academy for youths from June 11th-16th.

A collaborative effort with the Singapore Symphony Group, the Organ Academy Singapore (OAS), comprises organ lessons, classes and concerts held at various pipe organs, including at the Victoria Concert Hall. Modelled loosely after the Pipe Organ Encounter series run by our sister chapters in the USA, this local effort will draw on home-grown talent as well as the expertise of recitalist/educator Tom Bell (UK). This promises to be an exciting week as we hope to attract more young people to venture into the world of organ music!

Friends, if you share our enthusiasm in organ music education, we welcome your support and participation!

Wishing you a fruitful year ahead!

Dr Evelyn Lim
Dean (2018-2020)

"Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul."

- Plato; Greek Philosopher
(428/427 bce - 348/347)

Revisiting The Pipes at Norwegian Seamen's Mission

By Suzanne Lau; Photo by Yap Wai Hoong



Chamber Musicians at Abendmusik 2018:
Performers pose for a photo

On 30 May 2018, Singapore AGO and the Norwegian Seamen's Mission collaborated to present an evening of chamber music. The evening's programme line up included six Chapter members and two vocalists, one of whom, Audhild Krogedal Wessman, was the music director of the church.

The music presented ranged from the 18th - 20th century.

It was a treat for the ears, especially for audiences who have never encountered a pipe organ of this size. One can hope for more partnerships with the Norwegian Seamen's Mission in the future!

Stefan Kiessling in Singapore

By Suzanne Lau

The Singapore AGO was pleased to host German organist Stefan Kiessling in early October 2018. It was a busy week for him in Singapore as he conducted a masterclass in addition to his concert with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Chorus later that week.

Over 20 people attended a masterclass at Methodist School of Music on 2 October. Three of our members; Isaac Lee, Loraine Muthiah & Yap Wai Hoong played for Kiessling; and each received tips on technique and interpretation on the pieces that they were working on.



Learning from the Master:
Kiessling addressing everyone at the session



Organ Academy Singapore is a 6-day discovery experience for young people from ages 12-21 to explore the pipe organ. Participants will discover the uniqueness of the instrument, learn how to play and explore its glorious sounds, view its mechanism, and visit various organs in the country.

Registration opens in February 2019

Stay Connected With Us!

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