



# PIPE ECHOES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SINGAPORE CHAPTER OF  
THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS



October 2014

## *Message from The Dean*

Dear Friends,

It has been some time since the last Chapter newsletter.

However, activities have not let up; because of good support and participation, we have been successful in organising concerts and other activities through the year. This past September, we were pleased to (re)appoint for the term 2014-2016, the following persons for various posts:

### Executive Committee:

Dean: Dr Evelyn Lim  
Secretary: Ong Te-Min  
Treasurer: Ng Chet Wei  
Membership Officer: Grace Chiam  
Newsletter Editors:  
- Isaac Lean  
- Suzanne Lau  
Publicity Officer: Esther Seet

### Standing Committee:

Programme Sub-Committee:  
- Ong Su Ling  
- Yap Wai Hoong  
Webmaster: Kevin Ardianto

Honorary Advisor: Dr Margaret Chen



**One for the Album:** Some of office bearers for Singapore AGO for the work year 2014 - 2016

Meanwhile, the Victoria Concert Hall, which was closed for over 3 years, is up and running again, with regular organ recitals being organised.

This certainly spells a breath of fresh air for our community, as finding an organ recital outside of Chapter offerings have been few and far between! An exciting development for 2015/2016 is a new collaboration between Singapore AGO and the concert organizers, which will help bring international artists to play at the hall.

Coincidentally, 2015 also marks our nation's jubilee year, and local organists (many of whom are Guild members) and works of composers will be in the spotlight in the series.

But as one venue reopens, another closes. We have been notified of the temporary closure of the sanctuary of the Orchard Road Presbyterian Church, and so our regular Pipe Works series will take a hiatus. Thankfully, we are able to continue other liturgical, educational and concert presentations at venues still open to us.

We would like to reinstate *PIPE ECHOES* as a regular (albeit more condensed) publication. Please feel free to contribute articles or ideas. Help spread the news about Chapter events, and continue to support our offerings!

With every good wish  
Dr Evelyn Lim  
Dean (2014-2016)

Quote for the month :

*"Organ practice: Private performance of a duet for organ and vacuum cleaner!"*

# An Evening of Chamber Music At The Norwegian Seamen's Mission

By Suzanne Lau

If I had to describe the evening of October 1st for me this year - I would say that it is a musically informative one. That evening, I saw members and friends of Singapore AGO put up their 'Abendmusik' Chamber Concert Series; featuring music of the Bach brothers (Wilhelm Friedemann & Carl Philipp Emanuel).

Of course - this is not the first of its kind for the Guild, but definitely a first for me attend. As a new member of the Singapore AGO, I was thrilled!

Growing up with classical music training, I've never thought much of music by both Bach brothers. *Abendmusik* in this season, specifically saw the works of these two gentlemen - which Dr Evelyn Lim took time to explain on top of the programme notes that was distributed at the concert.

What was more unique for me, was seeing the single-manual pipe organ at the Norwegian Seamen's mission. Yes, you read it right; I've always thought of an organ must always have two manuals and more than three pedals. It was interesting to see how, even with lesser stops and without pedals, the (I will say 'mini') pipe organ still gave a relatively rich sound with different tone colours. My learning journey with the organ just begun - can't wait for more to come!



**Talents of Singapore AGO:** Performers of this year's "Abendmusik" chamber concert series

## Singapore Chapter To Commission Local Organ Work

By Suzanne Lau

As Singapore celebrates its fiftieth birthday next year - the Singapore AGO too, celebrates by commissioning works by two young, local composers. One of the composers Phoon Yu, 24, also a member of the Singapore Chapter, is currently pursuing music studies at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Phoon Yu has been playing the organ for four years now. When asked, how was he drawn to organ, he says "I've always wanted to play an instrument which was not often played by other people".

The project has just begun - look out for the coming issues of *PIPE ECHOES* as we share on their progress soon.



**One Of The Composers:**  
Phoon Yu at the organ

## Look Forward To 2015!

**Season's Pippings Series 2015: Music in the Season of Lent**

- An evening of Lenten music and hymns (March 2015, TBC)

**Organ Recital**

- Benjamin Sheen (USA), Victoria Concert Hall (24 July, TBC)

**Hymn Improvisation Recital /Workshops**

- Jerry Westenkuehler (USA) (October, TBC)

**Abendmusiken Series**

- Bach 2015 (September, TBC)

## Stay connected with us!

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. Behind *PIPE ECHOES* - Advisor: Dr Evelyn Lim . Newsletter Editors: Mr Isaac Lean & Ms Suzanne Lau . Publicity Officer: Ms Esther Seet .

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