

Dong-Ill Shin in Singapore

By Suzanne Lau

Photos by Dr Evelyn Lim & Suzanne Lau

February 1, 2016 - This was Dong-Ill's (featured below) third visit to Singapore - this time playing at the VCH Concert Series featuring works by Bach, Manz, Morricone and Widor.

Later that evening, Singapore AGO held a masterclass at the Methodist School of Music where two members, Chang Xiao Ting and Jens Kluge, learnt tips on interpretation and performance pieces by Franck, Vierne & Messiaen.



Photo Moment: Ill-Shin posing for a photo at the Klais Organ at Victoria Concert Hall



Work in progress: Ill-Shin giving his thoughts to Xiao Ting (above) & Jens (right) during the masterclass

Message From The Dean

Dear Friends,

Size is not everything, but it surely helps. Large chapters can obviously get more done, especially when instruments and venues are readily available. For small chapters (some American counterparts as small as twelve!), individual passion and commitment can make the difference between survival and folding up. The Singapore Chapter is of a modest size, and its success depends on each member.

There has been a recent surge of interest in the organ due to varied programming at the concert hall and new forms of outreach. Our chapter contributes to fueling this interest by inviting artists and teachers to collaborate and perform, and also by encouraging friends and colleagues to attend or participate in organ events.

Let us seek out and encourage the like-minded to join our ranks! Size may matter somewhat, but it's the heart that counts!

With every good wish,
Dr Evelyn Lim
Dean 2014-2016



Organ-Hopping in Milan, Italy

Mr Yap Wai Hoong recounts his first encounters with organs in Italy

By Yap Wai Hoong

I arrived in Milan on 31 Aug 2015 before a work trip.

There I met organist Lorenzo Bonoldi, who hosted me at the Church of St Anastacia in the city of Villasanta. The Church housed 3 pipe organs - a 9-stop 1962 Balbiani Vegezzi-Bossi Choir organ at the back of the altar, a 36-stop 1884 Ferdinando e Paolo Prina organ above the entrance of the church and a magnificent 2013 91-stop Bonato organ, with two organ cases facing each other on each of the church's transept. The organ sounds soar through the church space with rich and lavish reverberations. This immediately called for a change in my playing speed and articulation.



Magnificent!: Wai Hoong at the 91-stop Bonato organ located in the Church of St Anastacia, Villasanta

In the same week, I also visited the Church of San Carlo Al Corso in Milan and Basilica of San Nicolo in Lecco where I had the chance to try their Balbiani Vegezzi-Bossi organs. These Italian-romantic era organs have a tonal palette influenced by the French Romantic organ builders, and yet possess distinctive, large diapasons. Mr Bonoldi's impressionistic style of organ improvisation during Mass brought out the warmth and the lushness of the organ, supported by a relatively complete set of string and celeste ranks.

Finally, I was also introduced to the Italian 'Opera-style' organs and the music – These organs were designed largely influenced by the 'Serassi organs'. The main manual has split keyboard configuration. A few distinctive features to mention are the Ripieno Pedal (which activates all the principal stops from foundations to the mutation) and the Combination Libera Pedal (which activates a set of prepared stops) so that Solos can be played on the right hand on top of a few other things. The Voce Umana stop is actually not a reed stop, but rather a detuned principal stop that works together with the principals to produce an undulating effect.

It was definitely enriching to try out on these organs and I look forward to more organ-hopping adventures soon!

Look Forward To 2016!

AGO 2016 Convention in Houston, Texas; USA

- 19 - 23 June 2016; register at <http://agohouston2016.com/>

Singapore AGO Concert

- Freemasons Hall (Sept 2016 - TBA)

~ Around Town... VCH Organ Series... Continues!

- For updates, check <www.sso.org.sg>

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