

The Pipeline

From the Dean...

A Matter of Perspective

This month I want to share with you a message from Alan Strong, the dean of the Brazos Valley Chapter and the organist/choirmaster of St. Andrew's Episcopal in Bryan. This column appeared in their March newsletter, and I liked it so much I wanted to share it with you.



Jackson Hearn

One evening, a couple of weeks ago, as I usually do, I played through the organ offertory I had selected for the 9:00 service, making sure my fingers and feet could get all the notes right, and choosing a registration that would produce the sounds I wanted. Then, using the technology we now have available in the St. Andrew's organ console, I recorded it digitally so that I could play it back and go out into the Nave to hear what the piece would sound like to the congregation. I spent another hour doing what I often do: listen to the piece as it has been recorded; make adjustments in the registrations; play and record it again; and repeat this process until I have all the sounds balanced just the way I want them...

Through the record/playback feature, I've confirmed what I'd always known, but can now check and correct: that the balance of sound I hear, sitting at the organ, is quite different from the congregation's perspective, sitting in the Nave. For some pieces I have to make it sound quite unbalanced, from my perspective at the organ, for it to sound right for the congregation.

All of this got me thinking: there are so many things that are a matter of perspective. We may look at what others are doing, or have done, and think something is really wrong, or out of balance but, from a different perspective, it may be just right. Then I took this another step further: is that not the reason God sent his Son to live, walk, and work amongst us, to both gain and provide the human, earthly perspective for his message? I, for one, am very glad Jesus walked among us so that his message would be balanced just right for our ears. At a much smaller *(continued, p.3)*

Fun in the Sun! A Galveston Organ Crawl SATURDAY, MAY 31

Moody Memorial, 117-rank Schantz

First Lutheran, 1929 Pilcher & 41-rank Freiburger

Trinity Episcopal, 69-rank Austin

Carpool Locations: St. Martin's Parking Lot - 11am;

St. Paul's Episcopal - 11:30am; Clearlake Presbyterian - 11:30am

We hope you can all attend an organ crawl to GALVESTON. This is our early summer social event and it will be a great time. We will car-pool from three locations: St. Martin's Episcopal Church parking lot on Woodway and Sage road at 11:00 am; St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 7843 Park Place Blvd. (just off of the Gulf Freeway) at 11:30; and Clearlake Presbyterian Church 1511 El Dorado Blvd. (also just off of

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AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
HOUSTON CHAPTER

Chapter Directory

Visit us on the web
<http://www.ago-houston.org>

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rcbenneto@att.net

Alice Spriggs, Auditor
 713.944.1437

Members-at-Large

2008

Suzanne Anderson Scott Mouton
 Linda Thomas

2009

Joanna Elliott Jason Farris
 Stephen Morris

2010

John Gearhart Jeff Hoover
 Crista Miller

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[sondraktucker@comcast.net](mailto:sondraktucker@comcast.net)

### Open Positions

**Marshall Maxwell**  
[marshall@marshallmaxwell.com](mailto:marshall@marshallmaxwell.com)  
 713.524.3554  
 713.522.3663 (fax)

## About Town... Events thru June 15

### Friday, May 2

**7:30 pm** Dr. Gregory Hamilton, organ  
*The Symphonic Organ*  
 ST. THERESA CHURCH  
 115 SEVENTH STREET, SUGARLAND  
 261.494.1156

### Saturday, May 3

**5:00 pm** River Oaks Chamber Orchestra  
 Tkts: 713.354.2250 [www.rocohouston.org](http://www.rocohouston.org)  
 THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE  
 2450 RIVER OAKS BLVD 77019

### Sunday, May 4

**3:00 pm** Dr. Dudley Oakes, organ  
 Reubke, Sonata on the 94th Psalm  
**3:30 pm** Evensong, Palmer Choir  
 THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE  
 2450 RIVER OAKS BLVD 77019

**4:00 pm** Organ Concert  
 The Chenaults Organ Duo  
 MOODY MEMORIAL METHODIST  
 2803 53RD ST, GALVESTON

**5:00 p.m.** Bach Vespers  
 Bach Choir and Orchestra  
*Cantata 172: Erschallet, ihr Lieder*  
 No admission charge  
 CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 2353 RICE BOULEVARD AT GREENBRIAR

### Sunday, May 11

**4:15 pm** Recital: Crista Miller, organ  
**5:00 pm** Evensong for Pentecost  
 CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL  
 1117 TEXAS AVENUE

### Sunday, May 18

**5:00 pm** Inaugural Recital  
 Parsons Organ  
 Lois Gurney, organist  
 NEW HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 1424 FM 1092, MISSOURI CITY  
 281.499.7611 [www.newhopelc.org](http://www.newhopelc.org)

**7:00 pm** Puccini *Messe e Quattro voci*  
 Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra of  
 Northwoods Presbyterian Church  
 Tkts: \$10 281.444.8861 or at the door  
 THE CENTRUM OF THE  
 CYPRESS CREEK CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER  
 6823 CYPRESSWOOD DRIVE, SPRING

**8:00 pm** Sung Compline  
 THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE  
 2450 RIVER OAKS BLVD

### Saturday, June 7

**7:30 pm** Dr. Marcus St. Julien, organ  
 ST. THERESA CHURCH  
 115 SEVENTH STREET, SUGARLAND  
 261.494.1156

### Sunday, June 8

**10:15 am** Schubert Mass in G  
 Good Shepherd Choir and  
 Soloists from Kingwood College  
 GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
 2929 WOODLAND HILLS, KINGWOOD

## Improve Your Skills

### Take a Guild Exam

The Houston Chapter would like to encourage all its members to take one of the five Guild examinations: The Service Playing Test, the Colleague Exam, the Associateship Exam, the Fellowship Exam, or the Choir Master Exam. Each of these examinations fulfills a particular niche in the many varied talents and gifts of Guild members, and no matter what your educational or skill level, there is a Guild exam that will stretch your knowledge and abilities. Take a look at the requirements at <http://www.agohq.org/education/index.html>.

As a veteran of three of these exams, I can tell you that the preparation time was a time of learning and has benefitted me in every capacity of my work.

If you would be interested in learning more about the exams, forming a study group, or if you've been teetering on the edge of signing up, but just need a cheerleader, please give me a call. My contact information is listed in the Chapter Directory found earlier on this page.

Sondra Tucker  
 Secretary, Houston Chapter AGO

*(Perspective continued from pg 1)*

scope, I also hope the St. Andrew's congregation appreciates the fact that I take the time to stand where they are to be sure my music is balanced for their ears on Sunday morning.

The matter of perspective goes beyond just the perception of the sounds. As organists and choir directors we have a particular perspective on our reasoning for selecting a particular hymn, anthem, or piece of organ music. I'm sure you have experienced the disappointment, as I have, when the congregation hardly seems to pay attention to the music at all, let alone catch the subtleties of meaning behind the music selection. It's always worth reminding ourselves that our congregations, and even audiences at special performances, won't always catch the meaning behind the music, not because they are intentionally ignoring us, but simply because being mostly non-musicians, they have a different perspective. We can only hope that, whether they catch all the musical meaning or not, our efforts will at least enhance the worship service.

Alan Strong, Dean  
Brazos Valley, Chapter AGO

*Other Choral Offerings*

*YOURS FOR A SONG*

Friday, May 9 - 7:30 pm

**HOUSTON CHAMBER CHOIR**  
**YVONNE WASHINGTON**

*End-of-the-season fundraiser*  
*Fun, music, food*

Tickets: 713.974.1253  
[www.houstonchamberchoir.org](http://www.houstonchamberchoir.org)

STAGES REPERTORY THEATER  
3207 ALLEN PARKWAY, HOUSTON

**JUDAS MACCABEUS**

GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL

*Presented by*

**CANTARE HOUSTON**

Saturday, May 17 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, May 18 at 5:00 pm

Tickets: 281.649.3479  
[www.cantarehoustonsingers.org](http://www.cantarehoustonsingers.org)

ZILKHA HALL  
THE HOBBY CENTER FOR THE  
PERFORMING ARTS  
800 BAGBY STREET, HOUSTON

**Deadline for June/July  
issue is May 15th.**  
Send to [music@sjd.org](mailto:music@sjd.org)

**Jobs available...**

There are no job listings at the time of publication. For the latest information or to post a vacancy contact

Marshall Maxwell  
[marshall@marshallmaxwell.com](mailto:marshall@marshallmaxwell.com)  
713.524.3554



*(Fun in the Sun continued from pg 1)*  
the Gulf Freeway) at 11:30. Our organ crawl will include Moody Memorial with its 117-rank Schantz organ from 12:30 until 1:30; First Lutheran with its historic 1926 Pilcher and its 41-rank Freiburger tracker organ from 2:00 until 3:00, and finish at Trinity Episcopal with its 69-rank Austin organ from 3:30 until 4:30. After the crawl is finished, at about 5:00 pm we will gather for dinner at a Galveston restaurant before traveling back to Houston.

Please RSVP to David Henning  
713.985.3820  
[DHenning@stmartinsepiscopal.org](mailto:DHenning@stmartinsepiscopal.org)



To sign up via web or download a form:

<http://www.ago2008.org/html/registration/register.html>

The Hilton Minneapolis, an elegant facility with high-speed wireless internet in all rooms, only \$138/night. Reservations: 888-933-5353 or use the link on the convention Web site.



## ASSOCIATION OF ANGLICAN MUSICIANS

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June 15-19, 2008

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713.354.2243

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Daily Worship, Workshops and Reading Sessions,  
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David Ashley White, Gerre Hancock, and Carson Cooman.

The United Nations Association  
**INTERNATIONAL CHOIR**  
*Phillip Kloeckner, Artistic Director*

### The Power of Puccini

90-Voice U.N.A International Choir  
Professional Orchestra

Drew Slatton, tenor  
Hector Vasquez, baritone

Saturday May 17, 5:00 p.m.  
Stude Concert Hall, Rice University



TICKET INFO: [www.unahouston.org/unachoir](http://www.unahouston.org/unachoir)  
Call Genva at 281.498.7562

## AGO Pipeline

American Guild of Organists  
Houston Chapter  
2450 River Oaks Blvd  
Houston, TX 77019

### INSIDE

HOUSTON EVENTS  
GALVESTON ORGAN CRAWL  
FROM THE DEAN  
CALENDER