

Dear AGO friends

October 2008

October offers some great opportunities for our members!! The National AGO has declared 2008 – 2009 as the International Year of the Organ and our Chapter is getting off to a good start with 3 events in which our members and friends will want to participate. All three of these events are at Porter Auditorium, Wesleyan College, and feature the newly renovated Aeolian Opus 1542.

Two of the events will be on October 2nd and guest organist is Peter Richard Conte. **Both events are FREE!!!** You are encouraged to invite your choir members and friends to these two Peter Conte events – the morning master class and the evening dedication recital.

The third event on the evening of October 18th is part of the Macon Symphony Concert Series and features our Dean, Michael McGhee, on the bench performing with the orchestra. Purchase of a ticket is necessary for this event. It is included in season ticket packages or as a single event purchase. Purchase tickets through the Symphony's website at www.maconsymphony.com or at 478-301-5300.

Michael McGhee, our host for these events, has suggested the following **directions for parking:**

Parking is available behind Porter Auditorium (take the entrance labeled #5 off of Tucker Rd. to access the parking lot and use the new sidewalk on the right side of the building to walk to the front of the auditorium) Parking is also available in the lot at the corner of Forsyth and Tucker.

MasterClass with Peter Richard Conte

The Art of Transcription

And a presentation about the Wanamaker organ

October 2nd, 2008, Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Porter Auditorium at Wesleyan College

Peter Richard Conte in Concert

Organ Dedication Ceremony

October 2nd, 2008, Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Porter Auditorium at Wesleyan College

The performer:

Peter Richard Conte is Grand Court Organist of the world famous Wanamaker Organ at the Macy's Philadelphia department store. When not touring, he performs on the six-manual, 28,000-pipe instrument twice daily, six days per week. The Wanamaker Organ is the largest fully functioning musical instrument in the world; Mr. Conte was appointed Grand Court Organist in 1989, and is the fourth person to hold that title since the organ first played in 1911. Mr. Conte is highly regarded as a skillful performer and arranger of organ transcriptions.

He performs extensively throughout the United States and Canada under the management of Phillip Truckenbrod Concert Artists, and was a featured artist at the American Guild of Organists' National Convention in 2002, and at the International Organ Festival in Aosta, Italy, in September 2004. He has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Peter Nero and the Philly Pops, and with the Delaware and Allentown Symphonies. In addition to his concert career, Mr. Conte serves as Choirmaster and Organist of St. Clement's Church, Philadelphia, where he directs an eighteen-voice professional choir in music of the Anglo Catholic tradition.

Peter Richard Conte is an Associate of the American Guild of Organists, has served on the executive board of its Philadelphia Chapter, and has presented guild workshops on transcriptions and improvisation. Mr. Conte studied with Larry Smith and Robert Rayfield at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he was awarded the prestigious Performers' Certificate in Organ. He later returned to Indiana University in 2008 to accept the School of Music's Distinguished Alumni Award. During High School, he studied with Robert Kennedy, while serving as Associate Organist at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, Garden City, New York.

The Instrument:

Experience the majesty of Aeolian Opus 1542!

Wesleyan's historic Goodwyn-Candler-Panoz organ, the largest musical instrument in central Georgia was recently redesigned and expanded through a million dollar renovation project. The 1925 instrument is vibrating the Wesleyan campus with new energy.

In 2007, the organ's 4,764 pipes were packed in crates and sent to the Schantz Organ Company in Orville, Ohio for repairs, cleaning, and re-voicing. The removal of the organ took ten days and the work in the organ shop was completed over eight months. The organ returned to Wesleyan's campus in July of 2008, and the reinstallation continued through August. A team from Schantz spent an additional seven weeks voicing and tuning each pipe individually so that they sound properly in Wesleyan's auditorium. The largest pipe of the organ, at a height of 32 feet, is the largest single organ pipe in central Georgia. Wesleyan's organ has 72 ranks totaling 4,764 pipes that are controlled by a four manual console. The console is now moveable and is placed on a lift in the orchestra pit. A stunning new façade of pipes was added in front of the tone openings of the chambers in Wesleyan's auditorium. The most notable addition to the organ is the Tuba Magna stop, which produces the most prominent sound on the organ. This stop speaks on 20 inches of wind pressure; for comparison, the rest of the organ is on 4 inches of wind pressure.

"Wesleyan's 1925 Aeolian organ is a superb example of the American orchestral organ that was being built in the early twentieth century," according to Wesleyan College Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Michael McGhee. "Organs like the one in Wesleyan's auditorium are rare because organ-building practices changed dramatically later in the twentieth century and many organs from the early 1900's were replaced with a different style of instrument."

Originally, Wesleyan's 72-rank Goodwyn-Candler-Panoz organ was a gift to the school by Asa Candler, Jr., the son of Coca-Cola's founder. The current \$1 million renovation project is possible through a generous donation from Nancy C. Panoz, a friend of the College who was honored in 2003 when she received an honorary doctor of commercial science.

Macon Symphony Orchestra

With Dr. Michael McGhee, organist

Featuring Guilmant's Symphony for Organ and Orchestra, op.42

October 18th, Saturday evening at 7:30 p.m.

Porter Auditorium at Wesleyan College

The program will also include music by Strauss, Debussy and Walton and will also feature the Wesleyan College Woman's Chorus under the direction of AGO member, Nadine Whitney.

Other Chapter Information:

If you were not able to attend our September luncheon meeting in Forsyth, our secretary, Harold McManus, has posted the minutes for that meeting on our Chapter website, www.maconago.org. This newsletter will also be posted for later referral. There are also links on the website for more information on Peter Richard Conte and the Wanamaker organ as well as Wesleyan College and the Macon Symphony.

Yearbooks and membership cards for those members unable to come to the September meeting will be mailed.

Please add to your program listing the name of our guest speaker for the May 4th Clergy-Musician luncheon - Rev. Dr. John Beyers, senior minister at Conyers FUMC and chaplain of the Atlanta.

The Third Tuesday organ interlude for October will be on the 21st at noon at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Macon with Ann Caldwell.

Northminster Presbyterian Church is currently searching for a Music Director/Organist/Choirmaster with additional experience in handbells and/or children's music. Applications can be sent to the church at 565 Wimbish Road, Macon, GA, to the attention of the music search committee or by email to NPCMusicSearch@yahoo.com, or Tom Goodwin, Music Search Moderator at good3118@bellsouth.net. His phone number is 474-4724.

Refer to our Chapter website for other local musical events and watch for emails concerning other information of interest to our members.

Soli Deo Gloria!