



THE NASHVILLE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

PIPELINES



SPECIAL ISSUE • THE FLOOD OF 2010

we are nashville

A SPRING STORM STALLED over Nashville on May 1–2, dropping as much as 20 inches of rain in some places. Thousands of homes, including some owned by members of the Nashville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, were filled with mud and water. No mercy was shown to pianos, practice organs, and extensive collections of organ music.

At one of the venues of the 2012 National AGO Convention, **ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, water began rushing in the front door during the 8:30 a.m. Sunday service. Members of the congregation bolted into action as they moved cherished fixtures to the second floor.



St. George's Church portico on May 2

Eighteen inches of water filled the entire first floor of the church, including the sanctuary, chapel, and parish hall. Fortunately, the 85-rank Casavant organ, including console and blower, was above the rushing waters, and suffered no serious damage.

The Saturday night concert at the **SCHERMERHORN SYMPHONY CENTER** was presented as planned. By Sunday morning, the rising Cumberland River began to flood the streets around the new hall. Staff rushed to move the two Steinway grand pianos and the Schoenstein organ console from the basement to stage level. Before this could be accomplished, power was lost, and nothing could be done to save the instruments.

Despite the devastating disaster we have suffered here in Nashville, the city is fighting back with great strength and support for each other with a new slogan: **we are nashville**. Every organ and venue scheduled for the 2012 National Convention has survived with little or no damage. The Schoenstein Organ Company plans to start construction of the replacement console at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center immediately. St. George's Episcopal, with the belief that the church is the people, not the building, mopped up and worshiped in their somewhat damp building the following Sunday. To say we all are okay is not exactly where we are, but we're getting there.

We will be ready for 2012!

The Executive Board of Nashville AGO

Dear Friends of the AGO, Nashville Chapter:

Your Executive Board met on Tuesday afternoon at West End United Methodist Church. Dean Scheusner called us into session for the purpose of acting on a suggestion from AGO National that we may be eligible to seek funds from a nationwide campaign, similar to one which followed the Katrina disaster. The Board members present unanimously authorized Bill Gray to contact the national office to set that appeal in motion.

Many of you are known to us for your greater and lesser losses or disruptions; yet, some losses are just being calculated. An application form is attached to this communiqué so that you may request financial assistance from our local chapter, should contributions come forth.

We shall send the word out to AGO that, indeed, all plans for the 2012 Convention are intact. All of the planned venues are safe or will be restored by Convention time.

Know that you have our thoughts, prayers, and deepest sympathy for the fear, the displacement, and the considerable losses which have been experienced this past week. We want to help toward diminished finances, music loss, or convention preparations.

Sincerely,

Thomas N. Moody
Dean-elect

NASHVILLE CHAPTER MEMBERS AFFECTED BY THE FLOOD

MARK BEALL – flooded basement and recording studio; lost computers and recording equipment

JOYCE BYRD – flooded basement

DONALD CORNELIUS – flooded basement

BILL AND GINNY GABLE – flooded first floor at River Plantation; lost a Rodgers organ and two cars

BILL GRAY – flooded basement; lost music and collectible recordings

JAMES JORDAN – flooded basement

BARRY LUMPKIN – flooded basement

CAROL MCCLURE/WES RAMSAY – flooded main floor

MICHAEL PACK – flooded entire one story home in River Plantation; lost Allen organ and his car

WILLIAM TAYLOR – flooded basement

— Prepared by Sharron Lyon on 5/12/10

NEWS FROM NASHVILLE AND BEYOND

From Milnar Organ Company...

We are working on several organs that were affected by the storms. The Schermerhorn lost its organ console, blowers, and high pressure bellows. Technicians are wearing bio suits to work in the area. Almost all the water has been removed.

The blower at First Baptist in Lebanon took in water. It is dried out and looks as if it will be fine. We will reconnect it this week.

Forest Hills United Methodist Church is still working on getting out

the water, which caused severe damage to the church and to the blower.

We are re-leathering pouches on the Great division at First Lutheran following a roof leak.

Hopefully, the water did not get too high at Woodland Presbyterian Church. We are planning to visit soon.

If anyone had water around the blower, do not play the organ without an organ technician examining the system.



Post-flood photo of Schoenstein organ console



From Andrew Risinger, Curator of the Martin Foundation Organ...

The loss of the Schoenstein console and blowers at Schermerhorn Symphony Center is indeed sickening. The efforts and expense to restore not only the entire damaged areas of the building but also normal operations is staggering.

Multiple inquiries came from the staff of Schoenstein as soon as they received word about the damage to the organ asking, "How can we help?" Also, they made it clear that they were ready to jump in and do whatever

needed to be done. Of course the Milnar Organ Company also has been involved from the beginning, lending invaluable support. Louis Patterson from Schoenstein did travel here after getting a preliminary report from Dennis Milnar about the integrity of the rest of the organ (pipes, chests, etc.), which, at this point, seems to be in good shape. The administrative staff has been able to restore temporary climate control to the concert hall itself, mainly for the protection of the organ, even though the HVAC system for the entire building will likely be rebuilt before operations return to normal.

I am grateful that we'll soon have a new console and blowers, and that the instrument will again "flood" Laura Turner Hall with joyful sounds.



Bill and Ginny Gable...

at 206 Plantation Court, have asked for volunteer help. Bill was the organist at Holy Trinity Lutheran for decades. In addition, he has supplied for many churches in the area. Volunteers should first call Ginny (615-426-9305) for any updates.



From AGO Executive Director, James Thomashower...

Our hearts go out to all of the members of the Nashville Chapter and to their families, friends, and loved ones who have been adversely affected by the Flood of 2010. We recognize you are suffering through a dreadful catastrophe, but we are confident you will recover and rebound from it.

We stand ready to help you in any way we can, and we look forward to being with you in 2012, when AGO members from all over the country will join you in celebrating our 51st biennial national convention in Nashville.



From David Higgs, Professor of Organ at the Eastman School...

Having just been to Nashville to play on the now-damaged Schoenstein organ at the Schermerhorn Center, I want to send my sincere good thoughts and hopes for recoveries from the devastation of the flood. We were all so sorry to hear the terrible news of the loss of lives and the damage to so many cherished monuments and possessions. I think of you often in this difficult time.



Joel Bolen...

reports that a friend lost about a third of her home. However, she has a Yamaha baby grand piano that was in a portion of the house that was untouched. She needs to sell the piano as quickly as possible, as she needs money for her recovery from the flood. Original price: \$11,000; suggested selling price (by a piano technician): \$5,500. Contact Debora Lee Meehan directly at 615-477-3584.



Thanks to Sharron Lyon...

who has underwritten the unpaid 2010-11 dues for chapter members who were affected by the flood.



Congratulations to Gerry Senechal...

who graduates from Belmont University on May 14, with a Master of Music degree in Church Music. His degree focus is on conducting. Gary completed a final project/concert on the proper use of straight tone with choirs.



Gerald Hansen...

will present a free recital at the Tennessee Tech Wartenbarger Auditorium in Cookeville on Saturday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. The program includes music by Bach, Bingham, La Montaine, and Mulet.

To apply for a grant from the AGO, should funds become available...

Send a letter of application, including your name and contact information, as well as the type of damage/loss, and the estimated replacement value of the item(s) to:

Marsha Scheusner
1502 Jewell Drive
Columbia, TN 38401

If you had planned to attend the DC2010 National Convention, and flood-related expenses are preventing your participation, you may apply for help with that, as well. All disbursements will be approved by an ad hoc chapter committee.